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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2023

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IN SEARCH FOR MISSING TEEN SWIMMER

Day 3: Still no results

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The search for 14-year-old Bradley Delos Santos, the teenage boy who was swept out to sea last Saturday, entered Day 3 yesterday with no new leads on the victim.



Rios' appointment as Commerce chief withdrawn

» **WCC director designated as acting Commerce secretary**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has withdrawn his appointment of Joseph S. Rios Jr. as secretary of

See RIOS on Page 4

DOD ship makes port call on Saipan



By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI welcomed its first visiting Department of Defense vessel yesterday afternoon, the USS *Emory S. Land*.

See DOD on Page 4

Passengers of the USS *Emory S. Land* disembark after the vessel docked at the Port of Saipan yesterday. Inset show Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, center, welcoming Capt. Brent Spillner, right, commanding officer for the USS *Emory S. Land*, and GMC Kevin Barbo, a son of Saipan who was aboard the USS *Emory S. Land*.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

INSIDE



BUSINESS

De' Cafree Coffee Roasters expands to Saipan with the opening of a coffee shop in Chalan Kanoa.

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ASIA

President Joe Biden plays host to Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. at the White House.

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GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

Beside changes in application, wallpaper is now accepted and encouraged in interior design.

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'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN

Days until
'touchback rule'
takes effect on
Sept. 30, 2023:

150

ZERO SHADOW DAY

Saipan experienced a Zero Shadow Day at exactly 12:19pm yesterday. Photo shows the columns around the globe memorial at the entrance to the Visitors Center at the American Memorial Park casting no shadow, in contrast to the benches on the foreground. According to Google, Zero Shadow is a phenomenon when the sun is exactly overhead and the shadows of symmetrical and vertical objects vanishes. This happens for locations between the tropics and is caused by the northern and southern motion of the sun during the course of a year.

MARK RABAGO

Local

House creates committee to continue probe into BOOST

» **Special committee will also investigate ARPA funds**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives created yesterday a special committee that will continue the investigation into the Torres administration's Building Optimism, Opportunity and Stability Together, or BOOST Pro-

gram, as well as the American Rescue Plan Act funds.

Acting House Speaker Joel C. Camacho (Ind-Saipan) appointed nine members to the Special Committee on Federal Assistance and Disaster Related

Its members are Reps. Joel Camacho, Vincent S. Aldan (Ind-Saipan), Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan), Diego Vincent F. Camacho (D-Saipan), Vicente C. Camacho (D-Saipan), Marissa R. Flores (Ind-Saipan), and John Paul P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan).

BOOST was a project of the previous Office of the Gover-

nor, Department of Finance, and Department of Commerce. It aimed to provide financial assistance to CNMI businesses and nonprofit organizations. Through BOOST, financial assistance was provided to local businesses and nonprofit organizations in the form of grants and business coaching through counseling and training programs.

The 22nd House Ways and Means Committee and the Judiciary and Governmental Op-

erations Committee had jointly recommended that further legislative investigation into the BOOST Program is needed, and should continue in the 23rd Legislature.

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios disclosed last week that BOOST Program is already ended or has been stopped. He said, however, that the evaluation and assessment of the program's effectiveness is still ongoing.

Yumul said in a later interview yesterday that the Special Committee on Federal Assistance and Disaster Related Funding was formulated in the 21st Legislature, where he also served as chairman.

Yumul said the Special Committee in the 21st Legislature investigated all federal funds coming to the CNMI.

Right now, he said, the Special Committee's priority would be to look into the BOOST Program on what the last Legislature (22nd) has not completed in

its investigation.

Yumul said they have not heard from former Finance secretary David DLG Atalig and all the people involved in the BOOST program.

Yumul said the investigation will be specifically for the BOOST and ARPA as there are some questions that were not answered when the 22nd House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee and Ways and Means Committee did its investigation

"Not everybody was brought in," he said.

Yumul said their first goal is to organize the members and then set the parameters like their subpoena power. "That needs to be in place. That will be discussed by next week," he said.

Yumul said some members at the current Special Committee are existing members of the 21st Legislature, and some members are from the old and current JGO Committee.



Camacho

Yumul

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

BWA, Valqari share plans for drone technology in the NMI

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystral_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Bella Wings Aviation and Chicago-based Valqari Drone Delivery shared some of their plans to bring drone technology services to the CNMI during a presentation at the Tuesday meeting of the Saipan Rotary Club yesterday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Bella Wings Aviation CEO and president Charlie Hermosa, Valqari Drone Delivery founder and chief executive officer Ryan Walsh told club members that they are on island to kick off the first phase of their project.

Hermosa said their team is most remembered for their drone show during the Pacific Mini Games last year, but their company's mission is to be able to provide access and connect the islands using drone technology, with deliveries of merchandise, especially medicine, into areas that are normally inaccessible.

Hermosa was on island just two weeks ago and gave a presentation at the CNMI House of Representatives. In March, Rep. Manny Gregory T. Castro (Ind-Saipan), who chairs the House Committee on Education, along with Diego M. Sablan, special assistant for the Substance Abuse, Addiction and Rehabilitation, toured the BWA facilities in Guam.

"What we're doing here is we're going to officially sign the [memorandum of un-

derstanding] to be able to develop what we call 'Phase 1 of the manufacturing part of what we think is the infrastructure that is needed here within the regions that are going to develop this joint technology," Hermosa said.

He said they are partnering with Valqari and using their technology. "So we [Valqari and BWA] ventured into a partnership agreement that we are going to manufacture their [Valqari] technology here on Saipan. We are here to sign that agreement today. It's a huge and historic for us. I strongly believe and I'm all in for this—

that what we need is a spark to be able to create a tech hub on this side of the world, and there's no reason why we can't do it," Hermosa said.

"...We tried this months' back when we had the hardware and infrastructure...but we did not have enough folks to be able to give us what we need," he said. To address this lack, Hermosa disclosed that they would be working with the Northern Marianas Technical Institute to have a course to educate and train interested young residents on the manufacturing side of drones.

Starting with elementary and high school students, he hopes "to get them engaged in the technology they're developing and then get them into a profession...through a trade's program or college program. ...Young people

See BWA on Page 4



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Bennett appointed to the CNMI Cannabis Commission

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has nominated Ambrose M. Bennett, a retired teacher and an advocate for the legalization of marijuana in the CNMI, to serve as a member of the

CNMI Cannabis Commission representing Saipan and the Northern Islands.

Bennett's appointment requires the advice and consent of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

The terms of commission-

MCS Early Bird deadline is this Friday

Community members are reminded that Mount Carmel School's Early Bird Special deadline is this Friday, May 5, 2023. After the deadline, families will still be able to avail of the extended deadline with adjusted rates. By June 1, 2023, regular registration rates will apply.

Mount Carmel School's Early Bird Special is a program dedicated to helping families more affordably secure their student's seats for the upcoming school year with multiple opportunities to save money. In an effort to support families, Mount Carmel School is committed to offering as many financial aid and scholarship opportunities for the upcoming school year. Families with more than one child can also avail of tuition discounts for the 2023-2024 school year.

The annual Early Bird registration discount is as follows:

For grades K4 - K5 registration is \$75 per student (normally \$100). For students in K5, the registration discount is \$100 (normally \$150). For students in grades first through twelfth, the registration fee is \$200 per student (normally \$400).

Mount Carmel School will also begin accepting online applications for financial aid between May 5 and May 31, 2023. Students may apply for one of three types of aid available: \$750 for an academic scholarship, \$750 for an extracurricular scholarship, or \$750 in financial aid.

The financial aid and scholarship application deadline is May 31, 2023, at 5pm. Only online applications will be accepted. Final award decisions will be announced by June 30, 2023.

For more information, visit <https://www.mountcarmelsaipan.com/early-bird-special>. (MCS)

ers are statutorily established as staggered four-year terms. If confirmed, Bennett will serve the remaining term vacated by Nadine Deleon Guerrero, which will expire

on Sept. 11, 2023.

Palacios said that Bennett's nomination shall also serve as his re-appointment to serve a subsequent four-year term subject to advice

and consent of the SNILD.

Palacios said he and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang are confident that Bennett meets the qualification of a commissioner and that he will devote his time and efforts to carry out the regulatory

mandates of the Cannabis Commission for the successful implementation of the Taulamwarr Sensible CNMI Cannabis Act of 2018.

Bennett used to serve as Board of Education teacher representative.

Song and Yoo are SCS Uke Elite winners

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystral_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

For displaying exceptional skills in ukulele playing and their leadership when helping others improve their ukulele skills, two of Saipan Community School's students were awarded the Annual Uke Elite Award during the school's '23 Uke Jam last Friday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Eighth graders Joan Song and Joshua Yoo were presented with the award after the school's Uke Jam, where the two performed and watched some of the students they mentored perform as well.

According to SCS principal Amanda Dunn, Song and Yoo, along with students David Park and Morgan Finco, played a key role in organizing the event. She said the concert's playlist and setup for that evening were completely student-led.

"...Coming out of COVID-19, our students' social and



CHRYSTAL MARINO

Eighth graders of Saipan Community School demonstrate their ukulele skills through their beautiful music last Friday during the '23 Uke Jam at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

emotional health has gotten turned back around to where they're confident again [and] they're comfortable on stage," Dunn said. "...The past year-and-a-half has just been teaching them how to be in front of people after being behind a computer screen, and so this has been a beautiful experience of letting them do that and to feel comfortable doing so. ...I'm just proud that our kids are building the confidence and being their personal best through this."

Dunn said she is proud of Song and Yoo, who have both been playing the ukulele since third grade. She noted that the two helped the sixth graders build their confidence leading up to their performance that night.

Dunn said they would usually hold such school events at the school's chapel, but due to some renovations, they had to

move their event to the Multi-Purpose Center.

She said they will also be holding the school's 35th Spring Band Concert at the same location tomorrow.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-23-018

OFFICE SPACE LEASE FOR CUC ROTA'S ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS & OPERATIONS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the lease of a suitable office and operations support facility for the Headquarters of CUC's Administration and Operations on the island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed office space must comply with American Disabilities Act (ADA), DPW, OSHA and CNMI Zoning regulation.

The IFB package may be obtained at the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration with CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package will be emailed to the registered Proponents email ID. For registration inquiries, please email Marcela Tenorio, CUC Senior Administrative Technician via email address, marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-23-018, Office Space Lease for CUC Rota's Administrative Functions and Operations." to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 23, 2023**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

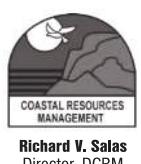
Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 2, 2023** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Alvin King, CUC Rota Resident Manager at email address alvin.king@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

DR. DALLAS M. PEAVEY JR.
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAM
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp



Richard V. Salas
Director, DCRM

NOTICE OF RENEWAL CRM WATERSPORTS AND RECREATIONAL PERMIT RENEWAL DEADLINE: MAY 30TH, 2023 NOTICE TO ALL CNMI MARINE SPORTS OPERATORS

THE DIVISION COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (DCRM) OF THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY (BECQ-DCRM) WOULD LIKE TO REMIND ALL MARINE SPORT OPERATORS THAT RENEWAL OF YOUR WATERSPORTS AND RECREATIONAL PERMIT EXPIRES ON MAY 30TH, 2023. TO AVOID ANY INTERRUPTION OF YOUR WATERSPORTS ACTIVITIES, PLEASE SUBMIT **A COMPLETE CRM PERMIT APPLICATION** TO DCRM ON OR BEFORE THE MAY 30TH DEADLINE. TO ENSURE A SUCCESSFUL SUBMISSION OF YOUR CRM PERMIT APPLICATION, PLEASE ATTACH ALL REQUIRED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS WITH YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION INCLUDING A COPY OF YOUR PAYMENT RECEIPT ISSUED BY THE CNMI TREASURY. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE APPLICANT TO ENSURE THAT THEIR CRM PERMIT APPLICATION IS FINAL AND COMPLETE PRIOR TO SUBMISSION. SUBMISSION OF AN INCOMPLETE APPLICATION WILL BE RETURNED TO THE APPLICANT.

DUE TO DCRM'S REGULATION CHANGES AFFECTING PERMIT AND ADMINISTRATIVE FEES, DCRM WILL BE CHARGING FEES FOR RESUBMISSION OF A CRM PERMIT APPLICATION. THIS ADDITIONAL FEE IS APPLICABLE ONLY IF YOUR APPLICATION WAS RECEIVED AND FOUND TO BE INCOMPLETE AND RETURNED. FOR MORE INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE, PLEASE CONTACT MR. NEIL TAISACAN AT ntaisacan@dcrm.gov.mp OR MS. PRIMROSE TAITANO AT ptaitano@dcrm.gov.mp OR BY CALLING (670) 664-8300.

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT



Bella Wings Aviation president and CEO Charlie Hermosa and Valqari Drone Delivery founder Ryan Walsh pose with members of the Rotary Club of Saipan after BWA and Valqari's presentation during the Rotary's luncheon yesterday at the Hyatt Regency in Garapan.

CRYSTAL MARINO

BWA

From Page 2

will learn how to operate drones, flight characteristics, coding, and engineering through the college program."

RIOS

From Page 1

the Department of Commerce. Workers' Compensation Commission director Francisco D. Cabrera has been designated as acting Commerce secretary "until further notice."

Palacios informed Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) last Tuesday, April 25, that he is withdrawing "at this time" Rios' appointment as Commerce chief. He said he will resubmit Rios re-appointment at a later date. There was no immediate reason cited for this move.

Palacios nominated Rios to fill

Hermosa shared that they already have a curriculum, and they did it with the University of Guam and now they want to do it here. This Thursday, he said, they are launching the 12-week Junior Drone Program in Guam. They could only accept 14 out of 200 applicants, all of whom

the position of Commerce secretary last Jan. 30.

The Senate Executive Appointments and Government Investigations Committee was supposed to hold a confirmation hearing for Rios last March 28, but Rios, through special assistant for the administration Oscar M. Babauta, asked to postpone the hearing as he was taking care of a "pressing personal matter."

Palacios designated Cabrera as acting Commerce secretary last Wednesday, April 26.

Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, in his role as acting governor yesterday, said that Cabrera has a lot of experience as he has been with the government, specifically with the Work-

auction of IPI's gaming equipment netted \$225,812. The fourth auction concluded last March 31.

"The court approves the report and account of the fourth auction and authorizes and directs Clear Management, Ltd., to collect the remaining 85% of the successful bids, to execute appropriate bills of sale, and to deliver the items sold to the successful bidders. All proceeds of sale will be maintained in The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC Escrow Trust Account, pending the further orders of the court," Manglona's court order states.

Manglona also approved the re-

ceivers' previous request for disbursement of funds for expenses incurred from March 1 through March 31, in the amount of \$11,554.26.

"Clear Management, Ltd.'s motion that the court authorize and direct disbursement from funds held in the Escrow Trust Account to Clear Management, Ltd. for expenses incurred from March 1 through March 31, 2023, in the amount of \$11,554.26, is hereby granted. This sum may be disbursed from funds held in the Escrow Trust Account," said Manglona.

The fifth auction of IPI's gaming property is set to close on June 9.

and Coastal Quality, the U.S Coast Guard, and private diving companies.

Agencies that participated in the search for Delos Santos exhausted all resources including boats, divers, and a helicopter.

"We [had] five boats from different agencies like Customs and Border Protection, Customs and Biosecurity, BECQ, DPS Boating Safety, and Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services rescue boat [plus] the U.S Coast Guard cutter. We also conduct[ed] dives. We employed divers to search the waters and the U.S Coast Guard helicopter [was] also deployed," Sato said.

According to a previous article on *Saipan Tribune*, Delos Santos, his brother, and two friends decided to go

are aged 7 to 12. "So at least we're starting and sparking up an interest to let them know that we are creating... something that would allow them to stay on island. That is our goal."

Walsh said they are excited to work with Hermosa and the CNMI. "He's done incredible things for

ers' Compensation Commission, for many years.

Cabrera has been the WCC director for the last 25 years. In the last 10 years, he has been the project director for the Department of Commerce's "one-stop" processing center, which includes the licensing offices of Alcohol and Tobacco, Weights & Measures, Taxicabs, Banking, and Insurance, and the Registrar of Corporations.

When asked yesterday if he wants to serve as permanent Commerce secretary, Cabrera said that's a big question and that the position is "pretty tough."

"But I have to meet with the governor to that extent," Cabrera said.

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to Marine Beach last Saturday afternoon without letting their parents know.

Saipan Tribune learned that the boys were making their way to the Marine Beach infinity pool—which is deep into Marine Beach waters—when a large wave crashed into them and dragged them into the open ocean. Fortunately, three of the boys managed to climb a nearby rock but Delos Santos struggled to swim.

The victim's brother went back into the water to try and help his brother and even managed to grab hold of Delos Santos' hand, but another wave came and crashed into the two boys, splitting them up.

Unfortunately, when Delos Santos' brother came back up, the victim was nowhere in sight.

this industry and it's not often getting the spotlight it deserves, so we're really excited to take the partnership we've had for a number of years and extend it. To provide Bella Wings' with our exclusive licensing for our technology..."

Some of the training in Phase 1 will start people off with cutting and designing, to soldering, and putting the drone units together. Hermosa said that education "is going to be the prime component of what we are going to do. ...We are trying to create an ecosystem that

starts out with education."

When asked about funding, Hermosa replied, "...When we came here, we never asked for any type of funding. We wanted to actually do it from the ground up." Later, he said the delivery service will have a monthly subscription fee. "But we also think that there's a lot of programs out there that can actually fund this for areas that are not accessible."

Hermosa also disclosed that they are looking to also have the drones deliver packages to a person's doorstep.

my team handled it. Everything was OK. The right thing to do was take our time to make sure everything was working 100% and everything is safe as we come in," he said.

In response to whether the visit ties in with the new administration's endeavor to pursue military tourism, Spillner said the port call is not specific to the CNMI's recent pivot away from its China market, but they are happy to know that their visit is welcomed and wanted.

"I can't comment on that, but I can tell you we have been planning this for a long time. Saipan is a place we love to come to. The *Emory S. Land* was here early last year so this is something we do routinely. It's not specifically in response to any changes in political climate, although I'm very happy to hear that they want us here because we love being here," he said.

A statement from Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang said the ship's visit to the CNMI is good news as the Commonwealth needs visitors to further stimulate the economy.

"We want to thank Capt. Spillner and his crew for visiting us. We appreciate them stopping by. We're happy to have the crew offload here and hit the town. We need all the help we can get to further stimulate our economy here. We hope they enjoy themselves here in the CNMI and we encourage them to come back again," he said.

GMC Kevin Barbo, a son of Saipan who has been serving in the U.S. Navy for the past 10 years, was aboard the *Emory S. Land* and shared his excitement to be home.

"This is my first time to come back to Saipan while in the Navy. I'm overly excited to be back here. My family is here waiting for me, and I'm really excited to be home to represent the Navy," he said.

SALES

From Page 1

equipment last March 31.

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona approved last Monday the sales made during the fourth auction of IPI's gaming equipment pursuant to the receivership granted in favor of USA Fanter Corp.

Michael White, who represents the court-appointed receiver in this case—Clear Management Ltd.—previously informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI that the fourth

auction of IPI's gaming equipment netted \$225,812. The fourth auction concluded last March 31.

"The court approves the report and account of the fourth auction and authorizes and directs Clear Management, Ltd., to collect the remaining 85% of the successful bids, to execute appropriate bills of sale, and to deliver the items sold to the successful bidders. All proceeds of sale will be maintained in The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC Escrow Trust Account, pending the further orders of the court," said Manglona.

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Unfortunately, when Delos Santos' brother came back up, the victim was nowhere in sight.

DAY 3

From Page 1

Kagman last Saturday.

Saipan Tribune also learned from reliable sources that the search concluded yesterday, as per standard procedures for search and rescue operations, but DPS has yet to confirm and officially call off the search. Standards dictate that a search be called off after 72 hours or three days.

Agencies who came out to help in the search and rescue mission included the Department of Public Safety, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Customs and Biosecurity, Bureau of Environmental

"Saipan is just a beautiful place to come. It's close to home and we get to see another beautiful part of the Marianas. It's my third time here and I love it every time, so I was pretty motivated to make sure we did this," he said.

Spillner shared that some of the factors that contributed to their delay were technical issues, but he and his team managed to get them sorted out and managed to dock safely.

"A couple of conditions [caused the delay]. We had a steering system that did not respond exactly the way we expected it to. And Saipan is beautiful, but it was a narrow channel through the reef and so we felt it was safer to make a big circle and make sure we had the situation under control. I was very pleased by the way

GCA Academic Bee Team to represent NMII in Chicago

Grace Christian Academy's Middle School Academic Bee team will be representing the CNMI at the National Academic Quiz Tournament in Chicago, Illinois from May 12 through May 15.

This comes after the GCA team won the Middle School Academic Bowl Tournament at Saipan Southern High School last March 25.

In Chicago, the CNMI team will be competing against over 160 other middle school teams from across the nation. GCA congratulated the team in a news release yesterday and thanked federal programs for making this trip possible and supporting all student competitions. (PR)



Registration open for Marianas Tourism Month 5K on May 20

Online registration is now open for the Marianas Tourism Month 5K Fun Run on May 20, 2023, beginning at Garapan Fishing Base in Saipan.

Registration is \$10 and is open at raceroster.com/events/2023/75098/marianas-tourism-month-5k-fun-run. Registration will also be held at the starting line on the day of the run beginning at 6am, with the fun run beginning at 7am and proceeding south on Saipan Beach Road Pathway to Quartermaster Road and back.

"In celebration of May



File photo shows participants of the Marianas Visitors Authority's Walk for Tourism 5K on May 22, 2021, on Saipan. Registration is now open at www.raceroster.com for the Marianas Tourism Month 5K Fun Run on May 20, 2023, at Garapan Fishing Base, Saipan. Participants were invited to dress as tourists for a chance to win cash prizes.

\$200 for second place, and \$100 for third place. Cash prizes will also be awarded for the Top 3 male and female finishers: \$150 for first place, \$100 for second place, and \$50 for third place, respectively. All proceeds will benefit the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, a non-profit organization. The first 100

registrants will also receive a limited-edition Marianas Tourism Month T-shirt.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/VisitTheMarianas or contact MVA Community Projects Specialist Jack Aranda at 1.670.664.3200/1 or communityprojects@mymarianas.com. (MVA)

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST: Bachelor's degree in Biology (may be foreign equivalent). 24 months experience as Laboratory Analyst, Microbiologist, or QA Staff. Water Treatment Plant Operator Level II Certification required. Collect and analyze environmental samples based on EPA-approved method and standard operating procedures. Determine data collection methods in compliance requirements, including the facilitation of preservation, packing, transport and shipment for samples that require additional off-island laboratory services. Send resume to: QUALITY WATER, INCORPORATED, Attn: Kazuko K. Tiu, P.O. Box 502148, Saipan, MP 96950

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP23-CHCC/LABORATORY-013

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JUNE 5th, 2023 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"LABORATORY EXPANSION PROJECT #2"
(Coordinate, Design, Oversight Monitoring and Construction) for CHCC Hospital / Laboratory Department

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.HEALTH). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting

May 10, 2023 | 5:00 PM
Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center
Susupe, Saipan
Tel: 234-9661/2 • Fax: 234-9666

AGENDA

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of 05/10/23 Meeting Agenda
4. Adoption of 11/29/2022 and 01/04/203 Meeting Minutes
5. Public Comments (not for items to be discussed in item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings:

1. **Conditional Use Application #2020-13864** - Da Dankery is proposing to utilize Two (2) existing structures for its "Cannabis Farm" Use. Structure A measures 49'7" (W) x 26'2" (L) and Structure B measures 16'10" (L) x 24'10" (W). This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. 044 K 07 in the village of Dandan. This area is zoned as Rural.
2. **Conditional Use Application #2020-13865** - Shalom Church is proposing to utilize an existing structure measuring 52'8" (L) x 42'1" (W) for its "Restaurant, General" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. TR 21859-3-1 in the village of Fina Sisu. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

3. **Conditional Use Application #2020-13866** - Max Investments, LLC is proposing to occupy Unit 1 on the ground floor of an existing 2-story commercial building measuring 30'6" (L) x 31' (W) for its "Cannabis Retail" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. 008 D 11 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Tourist Resort.

4. **Conditional Use Application #2023-0014** - Ma. Jyn & George Binghit are proposing to utilize an existing structure measuring 30'5" (L) x 16'4" (W) x 11'10" (H) for its "General Wholesaling" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. 002 H 10 in the village of Susupe. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

5. **Conditional Use Application #2020-13867** - Eddie's Fish Mart and Snack Bar is proposing to utilize an existing structure measuring 72' (L) x 43'6 (W) and to also construct an extension to the West Side of the property measuring 25'2 (L) x 12' (W) for its "Restaurant, General" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot NO. 002 F 19 in the village of San Jose. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

6. **Conditional Use Application #2020-13869** - Brenda B. Repeki is proposing to utilize a Cargo Container to construct a structure measuring 24' (L) x 12' (W) x 11'6" (H) for its "Mobile Home" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. 011 G 279 in the village of Kagman III. This area is zoned as Village Residential.
7. **Conditional Use Application #2023-0015** - Mariana Water Tour, Inc is proposing to utilize an existing structure measuring 104' (L) x 45' (W) for its "Gas Station, Light Repair" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. 015 D 92 & 015 D 84 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

C. New Business

1. Election of Officers
2. Political Sign Board Standards
3. Adoption of Zoning Regulations of the Nuisance Abatement and Blighted Property Maintenance Act of 2018
4. Conditional Use Application #2020-3926 and Conditional Use Application #2020-3927 - Lamar LLC

D. Old Business

1. Conditional Use Application #2022-0001 - Li's Limited Corporation

E. Miscellaneous

1. Administrator's Updates
2. Permit & Enforcement Report
3. Next meeting

F. Adjournment



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is paid by the NMHC with HUD funds.

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS 05/03/2023

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation
Saipan MP, 96950
Telephone(s): (670)234-9447/6866

These notices shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after May 19, 2023, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington D.C., for the release of Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 P.L. 116-20, enacted on January 27, 2020, announced via Federal Register Notice, to undertake the following activity and purposes in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

| Project/Activity Type | Purpose | Location | Total Project Cost |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| JYP-M6 Rehab Project • The "JYP-M6 Rehab Project" proposes to rehabilitate sixteen (16) units: eleven (11) studio types, two (2) units with one-bedroom, and three (3) units with three-bedrooms. | Affordable Rental Housing | Garapan, Saipan | Approximately \$1,600,000.00 of CDBG-DR funding, no other funds to be used. |

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) website at www.nmhcgov.net or NMHC Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) website at www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com; or on file at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or NMHC CDBG-DR Office in Beach Road, Chalan Laulau, Saipan, examined during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI Holidays, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. You may submit comments to the following options: via mail to P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan or drop-box located in front of the building; and via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net. All comments received by May 18, 2023, 4:30 p.m. will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing the submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Arnold I. Palacios consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Washington D.C. will accept objections to its release of fund and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to Ms. Tennille Smith Parker, DRSI Division Director, HUD, via email at Tennille.S.Parker@hud.gov or via telephone (202)402-4649. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

/s/
Arnold I. Palacios
Governor of the CNMI

Man gets 27-month prison term for assaulting officer, possession

A man who was convicted of assaulting a federal officer and possessing contraband in prison has been sentenced to 27 months in prison, according to a U.S. Attorney's Office news release yesterday.

It said that Derik Jonathan Camacho Reyes, 41, Saipan, was sentenced to a 27-month imprisonment term in the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands. His federal sentence will run consecutive to the sentence Reyes is currently serving by prior order of the CNMI Superior Court.

The court also placed Reyes

on three years of supervised release, required him to render 100 hours of community service, and to pay a mandatory \$200 special assessment fee.

According to the USAO news release, Reyes was an inmate at the CNMI Department of Corrections on Feb. 15, 2022. He was held in a maximum-security section with 22 other inmates, including three federal inmates. CNMI corrections officers attempted to seize a drug pipe from Reyes after observing suspicious behavior in his cell. Reyes resisted and attempted to flush

the pipe and a small baggie containing methamphetamine down a toilet. During the struggle, one of the officers hit his head on the corner of Reyes's cell doorway. The officer was treated at a local hospital for a contusion on his head, and minor chemical burns on his hand from methamphetamine and contaminant residue.

Given there is no federal detention facility in the CNMI, the U.S. Marshals Service contracts with the CNMI for federal prisoners to be housed at the CNMI jail. As a result, CNMI corrections officers perform a federal function and serve in the capacity of federal employees when the corrections officers care for federal inmates.

"Acts of violence toward detention facility employees will not be tolerated," stated Shawn N. Anderson, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. "The court's sentencing order is a strong measure of accountability. We will continue to pursue cases that improve the safety of these facilities."

This investigation was led by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration in partnership with the CNMI Department of Corrections, and prosecuted by Albert S. Flores, Jr., assistant U.S. Attorney in the District of the Northern Mariana Islands. (*Saipan Tribune*)

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Da Dankery

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Da Dankery is proposing to utilize Two (2) existing structures for its "Cannabis Farm" Use. Structure A measures 49'7" (W) x 26'2" (L) and Structure B measures 16'10" (L) x 24'10" (W). This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. 044 K 07 in the village of Dandan. This area is zoned as Rural.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: May 10, 2023
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio
Multi-Purpose Center

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3pm, May 9, 2023. Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmizoning.com, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 5911 Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E).

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Cecilia Taitano Fitial, Acting Chair

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Brenda B. Repeki

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Brenda B. Repeki is proposing to utilize a Cargo Container to construct a structure measuring 24' (L) x 12' (W) x 11'6" (H) for its "Mobile Home" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. 011 G 279 in the village of Kagman III. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: May 10, 2023
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio
Multi-Purpose Center

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, Jan. 31, 2023. Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmizoning.com, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 5911 Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E).

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Cecilia Taitano Fitial, Acting Chair

Kiribati's Christmas Island reopens

Kiribati's Kiritimati (Christmas) Island welcomed yesterday its first international travellers in three years, one month, and 13 days when Fiji Airways resumed its weekly scheduled service to this world-class fly-fishing destination yesterday, May 2, 2023.

Following months of rigorous airport facility and airline compliance checks and clearance by the Civil Aviation Authority of Kiribati and Fiji Airways, Kiritimati will welcome travellers through Fiji Airways services from Nadi, Fiji and Honolulu, Hawaii.

The Tourism Authority of Kiribati welcomes this development in international access into Kiritimati. The COVID-19 pandemic forced the closure of the island's borders.

Fiji Airways will operate weekly services from Nadi, Fiji and Honolulu, Hawaii and travellers are required to present their vaccination certificate (double vax) upon check in. COVID-19 checks are no longer required upon arrival; however, persons displaying COVID-19 or flu-like symptoms upon arrival are required to visit the local health centre for medical check. (TAK)

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang proclaim the month of May 2023 as Older Americans Month at the Office on Aging in Garapan. Others at the event were Cultural and Community Affairs Secretary Mary S. Sablan, Office on Aging director Walter Manglona, local dignitaries, members of the Cabinet, and members of the community.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

May is Mes Man'amko or 'Older Americans Month'

By CHRYSSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang designated the month of May 2023 as Older Americans Month, locally known as Mes Man'amko, during a proclamation ceremony last Friday at the Office on Aging in Chinatown as part of the annual recognition of the CNMI's older citizens, in order to encourage the community help create a better inclusive society and flexible thinking around aging.

Cultural and Community Affairs Secretary Mary S. Sablan and Office on Aging director Walter Manglona, well as local dignitaries, members of the Cabinet, and members of the *man'amko* community joined Palacios and Apatang for the signing ceremony.

The proclamation highlighted the growing number of older Americans in the CNMI who, throughout the years, have contributed their time, wisdom, and experience to the community. It noted that, through the efforts of the *man'amko*, the community has benefited and grown and will continue

to do so when people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds have an equal opportunity to participate and live independently.

Recognizing the need to create an inclusive community that offers the services and support the *man'amko* need to make choices about how they age, the proclamation states that the CNMI can work to build an even better community for its older residents through "not limiting our thinking about aging, exploring and combating certain stereotypes, emphasizing the many positive aspects of aging, inspiring older adults to push past traditional boundaries, and embracing our community's diversity."

Ay the signing, Palacios and Apatang expressed their appreciation for the island's *man'amko*, and encouraged the community to help create an inclusive society alongside older citizens and "accept the challenge of flexible thinking around aging."

Older Americans Month, also known as Mes Man Åmku' and Marameer Tuufey, and is celebrated with this year's theme as "Aging Unbound."



NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Eddie's Fish Mart & Snack Bar

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Eddie's Fish Mart and Snack Bar is proposing to utilize an existing structure measuring 72' (L) x 43'.6 (W) and to also construct an extension to the West Side of the property measuring 25'.2 (L) x 12' (W) for its "Restaurant, General" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot NO. 002 F 19 in the village of San Jose. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: May 10, 2023
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio
Multi-Purpose Center

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3pm, May 9, 2023. Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmizoning.com. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 5911 Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E).

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Cecilia Taitano Fitial, Acting Chair

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Ma. Jyn & George Binghit

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Ma. Jyn & George Binghit are proposing to utilize an existing structure measuring 30'.5" (L) x 16'.4" (W) x 11'.10" (H) for its "General Wholesaling" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. 002 H 10 in the village of Susupe. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: May 10, 2023
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio
Multi-Purpose Center

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3pm, May 9, 2023. Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmizoning.com. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 5911 Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E).

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/s/ Cecilia Taitano Fitial, Acting Chair

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Shalom Church

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Shalom Church is proposing to utilize an existing structure measuring 52'.8" (L) x 42'.1" (W) for its "Restaurant, General" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. TR 21859-3-1 in the village of Fina Sisu. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: May 10, 2023
Time: 5:00 pm
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Multi-Purpose Center

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3pm, May 9, 2023. Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmizoning.com. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 5911 Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E).

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/s/ Cecilia Taitano Fitial, Acting Chair

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Mariana Water Tour, Inc.

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Mariana Water Tour, Inc is proposing to utilize an existing structure measuring 104' (L) x 45' (W) for its "Gas Station, Light Repair" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. 015 D 92 & 015 D 84 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: May 10, 2023
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio
Multi-Purpose Center

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3pm, May 9, 2023. Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmizoning.com. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 5911 Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E).

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Cecilia Taitano Fitial, Acting Chair

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Max Investments, LLC

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Max Investments, LLC is proposing to occupy Unit 1 on the ground floor of an existing 2-story commercial building measuring 30'.6" (L) x 31' (W) for its "Cannabis Retail" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. 008 D 11 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Tourist Resort.

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For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Cecilia Taitano Fitial, Acting Chair

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Supreme Court gets what it deserves as public approval plummets

A new poll indicates the U.S. Supreme Court, once at the top of the nation's most respected national institutions, is plummeting in public approval, with neither Republicans nor Democrats satisfied with the nine justices or their legal opinions. Only slightly more than a third of Americans trust the court. Americans also strongly disagree with justices' lifetime tenure. Although the court shouldn't rule by public opinion, nor will public disapproval determine its future, the judiciary branch's behavior has justified the scrutiny it is receiving.

The abortion issue is one of the big factors affecting the court's current decline in public approval. Controversies surrounding Justice Clarence Thomas' repeated ethical breaches certainly don't help the court's image.

The precedent of earlier court rulings is supposed to provide the underpinnings to explain whatever new steps the Supreme Court takes in expanding or restricting constitutional rights. A major part of winning public acceptance of certain controversial rulings is the soundness of the legal argument surrounding it. In too many recent decisions, however, the court majority's logic has appeared to be based more on ideological and even religious conviction rather than the law.

The more the court appears to veer in that direction, the less acceptance its decisions will have among the general public—and the higher the chances that individuals or governments will look for ways to skirt those rulings. So legitimacy matters, and the court's legitimacy is seriously in question. In April, Democratic Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York suggested the Biden administration should ignore a Texas federal judge's ruling halting approval of the abortion-inducing drug mifepristone. She was followed by Republican Rep. Nancy Mace of South Carolina, who also said the ruling should be ignored.

On April 21, the Supreme Court overruled the Texas judge and temporarily restored mifepristone's legal distribution. But Justice Samuel Alito, who wrote last year's ruling overturning Roe v. Wade, took issue with the 7-2 decision to maintain mifepristone's availability, justifying his opposition by saying "the Government has not dispelled legitimate doubts that it would even obey an unfavorable order in these cases." So Alito seems keenly aware that the court is in danger of having its decisions disobeyed.

In an NPR/PBS NewsHour/Marist poll released last Monday, 64% of respondents—including 55% of Republicans—opposed banning medication abortion. Only 37% overall expressed confidence in the court, with 61% of Republican men supporting it compared with only 44% of Republican women. Two-thirds of respondents favored limiting justices' tenure and not appointing them for life.

When any branch of government veers to the ideological extremes, that's a warning sign. If justices truly value the public's acceptance, they must work harder to enforce a rigorous ethics policy and find a balance in legal interpretation that better resonates with the population that must cope with the consequences of their rulings.

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A SECOND TRUMP PRESIDENCY

YOU HAVE A DEPOSITION AT 10:30,
A COURT APPEARANCE AT NOON,
TESTIMONY TO THE GRAND JURY
AT 2:15, ANOTHER DEPOSITION
AT 3:45...



Ukraine is running out of ammo. So is the US

As the war in Ukraine rages and with Kyiv's forces likely to begin a major offensive any day now, both sides in the conflict are facing shortages of ammunition, electronic components, precision-guided weapons and even cement. While the West has a vastly larger overall capability to deliver the necessities of combat, snarls in the global commercial supply chain are beginning to manifest.

The real "spring offensive" may not be tanks and armor, but upscaled weapons production in the factories of Ukraine's democratic supporters. What should they be doing collectively to make sure the Ukrainians get what they need to turn back Russia's illegal and immoral invasion? And what will be the impact on broader global supply chains?

As the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's military commander over a decade ago, I would often look deep into logistics and supply chains as I contemplated our combat operations in Afghanistan, the Balkans, Libya and counter-piracy. We felt comfortable that the overall Western defense industrial base—which supports over \$1.2 trillion in collective military budgets for the 31 NATO nations—could handle those conflicts with relative ease.

But what made me nervous a decade ago was the possibility of great power conflict in Europe—notably a potential flare-up with the Russian federation. While the democratic allies enjoy an overwhelming capability and inventory advantage (Russia's total defense budget is under \$70 billion, one-tenth of NATO's at best), the Russians have a competent industrial base, lots of raw materials, and can draw on conscript labor to man the machines in their foundries and factories.

While NATO is more than a year out of Afghanistan, the huge needs of Ukraine are driving challenges in supplying material to combat operations at a level I did not anticipate. The need for electronic components in particular—to build precision-guided weapons, sophisticated drones, anti-ship cruise missiles, and so-called smart artillery rounds—is soaring. Despite the sluggish global economy, civilian firms are competing with the Western militaries for the crucial semi-conductor chips, particularly the high-end ones produced largely in Taiwan.

Western car manufacturers and heavy equipment producers, from Caterpillar Inc. to General Motors Co., are feeling

By JAMES STAVRIDIS

Bloomberg Opinion

James Stavridis is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. A retired U.S. Navy admiral, former supreme allied commander of NATO, and dean emeritus of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, he is vice chairman of global affairs at the Carlyle Group. He is on the boards of American Water Works, Fortinet, PreVeil, NFP, Ankura Consulting Group, Michael Baker and Neuberger Berman, and has advised Shield Capital, a firm that invests in the cybersecurity sector.



the pinch. Cement, in high demand in the US for the infrastructure projects just beginning to come online from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, is getting scarce as Ukrainian war needs rise for reconstruction.

A number of analyses and war simulations are trying to project where the critical pain points will occur. Guns, missiles and ammunition—especially howitzer shells—are of most concern. Notable among the stockpiles running low are the 155-mm gun rounds that have emerged as the key offensive punch for the Ukrainians. Several analysts believe that Ukraine is burning through a year's worth of US prewar production monthly.

While the Department of Defense will continue to protect its own war reserves, the excess armament levels—stockpiled for contingencies beyond basic needs of the US war plans—are very low. And it is not just howitzer rounds: The high-performance HIMARS rockets are in short supply as well, for example.

The defense industrial base is stepping up production, taking a page out of the US industrial complex at the start of World War II. As the Yale Historian Paul Kennedy outlines in his brilliant book, "Engineers of Victory," about the technology, organization, and war production that turned the tide in the war, the allies eventually outproduced the axis.

While we are far from the total mobilization of the early 1940s, both the big defense primes and many smaller producers of high-tech systems (notably drones) are rapidly

See UKRAINE on Page 9

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the

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Considerations moving forward

On Thursday, April 27, we witnessed democracy in action when the Guam Legislature voted to override the governor's veto of Bill 12-37. The introduction of this new legislation effectively stopped a potential lease of federal land for a new civilian hospital and medical complex. I firmly believe in democracy and have no issue with the outcome of the proceedings. However, there was quite a bit of incorrect information stated publicly, and I believe it is important to clarify the details.

Civilian hospital

The proposed lease was intended for a civilian hospital that would replace the current Guam Memorial Hospital. It was not to be a military hospital. Today, members of the military and their family members are sent to Guam civilian medical facilities 4,000 times each year on average. Military healthcare insurance pays the facilities for these services. This same arrangement happens routinely across the country.

Shared patient care

Military doctors and nurses often work additional shifts in the Guam civilian hospitals. Multiple times each day, military ambulances respond to civilian patients in the community who have no affiliation with the military. It is common for civilian patients to be brought to the Naval Hospital for emergency treatment due to the severity of their wounds and proximity to the hospital. Regardless of the ambulance or the patient, transportation to a facility is based on the needed specialty and the criticality of the patient. Any new civilian hospital would be for the people of Guam and every patient who calls this region home.

Conditions of the lease agreement

Five of the lease conditions were to provide modern medical capabilities, these were:

A hyperbaric recompression chamber. A hyperbaric chamber is essential to treat decompression sickness, especially in an area where scuba diving is a big draw for tourism. The Navy will always maintain hyperbaric chambers in Guam for diving injuries. However, diving injuries are not the only use of this type of equipment. Hyperbaric treatment is now a common medical procedure for burns, brain injuries, crushing injuries and infections.

Inpatient hemodialysis capability. When dialysis is mentioned, most people think of treatments for diabetes, and those treatments certainly exist in Guam. However, a special type of dialysis, Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy is used during trauma situations to prevent kidney injury.

Interventional radiology facility capable of cardiac catheterization. This method is used by interventional radiologists to treat internal hemorrhaging conditions not amenable to surgical intervention, or without the need to perform surgery that requires a full incision into the patient's body. This treatment is beneficial for treatment for internal injuries.

Inpatient rehabilitation capability with services to include inpatient physical, occupational and speech therapy. There is a shortage of rehabilitation capability across all hospitals in Guam. The ability to provide long-term follow-up care in a hospital setting greatly increases the chances for a full recovery of patients who are recovering from trauma or significant life-threatening medical conditions.

Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. Pediatric intensive care is essential for the highest level of care for our most vul-

nerable population. Shortfalls in pediatric intensive care across Guam are evident. Staff from one facility travel to another due to the lack of equipment and patients are moved due to staff shortages.

As an island community, and the hub of the Marianas, Guam has additional needs based on the distance to alternate medical support. Three of the lease conditions were to provide capabilities with this distance requirement in mind:

Area capable of accommodating expeditionary medical support facilities. During the COVID-19 pandemic, a 150-bed Navy Expeditionary Medical Facility was set up in Dededo, but not adjacent to any existing medical facility. Tents were set up adjacent to the Guam Memorial Hospital, but limited in number due to the lack of dedicated space. This highlighted the need to have an area adjacent to a medical facility to allow synergy with an expeditionary support facility.

Mass casualty capability to receive approximately 10 critical patients per hour. Fortunately, it has been quite some time since a mass casualty event has happened in Guam. However, being properly prepared is essential, especially on an island where transporting large numbers of patients to other locations is not feasible. This highlighted the need for a facility configured to accept multiple critical patients in a short amount of time.

V-22 and H-53 capable helipad. Today the Naval Hospital can accommodate small helicopters with limited range and patient capability (Navy MH-60S Seahawk and Guam National Guard UH-72 Lakota). These aircraft rescue personnel and transport patients throughout the Marianas to the Naval Hospital. If the required specialty treatment does not exist at the Naval Hospital, further ambulance transportation is necessary. Larger aircraft with significantly longer ranges, faster speeds and more patient capacity (Marine CH-53 Stallion and MV-22 Osprey) will be operating from Guam in the future. If there was an earthquake on Saipan, a single CH-53 could transport 24 patients in one trip. If there were several injuries on Pagan, the MV-22 range and speed could transport 10 litter patients to Guam in less than half the time it takes to transport a single patient today. The need for a helipad to support these aircraft at a new hospital reduces patient transport time, which can make the difference between life and death.

Wherever a new hospital facility is built, I hope it will include the above-listed commonplace medical capability sets, the described disaster contingency capabilities and the aero-medical evacuation accommodations for the people of Guam and the region.

Monetary Value of the Lease Agreement.

To comply with federal law, the Department of the Navy must receive fair market value for a lease, either in cash or the accumulated value of in-kind consideration. The original lease was no cost in exchange for fencing the lease area and providing the capabilities listed above as in-kind considerations. The payment of approximately \$10 million was added to the final version of the lease in order to address the concerns of the Guam Attorney General regarding the in-kind considerations and future payments.

Need by the numbers

In 1990 the population of Guam was just over 138,000 with approximately 830 hospital beds on the island, resulting in about six beds per 1,000 people. The old Naval Hospital and

the face of Russian aggression.

Congress and the Pentagon have the tools to do so, primarily money. US military support to Ukraine is significant (over \$40 billion) but only a small fraction of the \$850 billion defense budget. America's European partners (and Asian allies like Japan and South Korea) will be providing nearly equal amounts of assistance, although their support will be focused more on humanitarian needs and economic reconstruction.

Both sides of the Atlantic will be providing selected combat systems (especially tanks and ground armor) and artillery rounds. Governments in the West will have to guarantee

By BENJAMIN NICHOLSON

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rear Adm. Benjamin Nicholson is commander of Joint Region Marianas.



old Guam Memorial Hospital both had more beds than these facilities have now. Today, with a population near 170,000 there are just over 330 beds on the island, putting Guam at about 1.9 beds per 1,000 people.

This is far below regional and U.S. averages. For comparison, beds per 1,000 people for Japan is 12.6, China 4.9, and the U.S. 2.9. Wherever a new hospital is built, consideration should be made for increasing the bed capacity.

Land transfer

In 2011 the Undersecretary of the Navy committed to a "Net Negative" strategy for DoD-owned land in Guam, which reads: "The department is committed to having a smaller DoD footprint [in] Guam after the military build-up than we currently hold. We will better utilize the lands we currently have and return underutilized land to the Government of Guam." Since this commitment, 609 acres of DoD land have been transferred to the Government of Guam. There are an additional 115 acres of terrestrial and 6,225 acres of submerged DoD land currently in the transfer process. The Navy is meeting this commitment.

Eagles Field

In January 2021, the Secretary of the Navy pledged to assist the Government of Guam in the planning and development of the plot of land, commonly referred to as "Eagles Field," for a civilian medical complex. The conditions of the lease, as outlined above, were beneficial for people throughout the region and provided military utility, resulting in good utilization of the land. However, since an agreement could not be reached, the land will be developed to support other defense mission requirements.

Working Quietly in the Background

While the fate of the lease was being deliberated, personnel from Joint Region Marianas were stateside meeting with the Department of Defense's Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation. This was to advocate for a grant to pay for the construction of a new public hospital in Guam. Without the nexus of a lease and the military requested considerations, it may be more difficult to receive this grant. However, we remain committed to advocate for the grant funding, regardless of where a hospital is built.

Looking ahead

This past Thursday, there was a tremendous amount of rhetoric and many disparaging remarks made about my organization and me. Vice commenting on the colorful language, I would like to acknowledge the countless hours of hard work, dedication and persistence that went into these negotiations. We recognize progress is only possible through cooperation, collaboration and communication. We will continue to work with the Government of Guam to be good partners on this beautiful island we all call home.

Thank you and *si yu'os ma'āse'*.

the contractual production, so the defense firms are not left holding the bag if the war abruptly concludes (which does not, admittedly, appear to be on the horizon).

While there will be some pinching in specific global commercial supply chains (e.g., electronics, construction materials, some minerals), the overall capacity to outproduce the tottering Russian economy is clear. Assuming China continues to wisely decline to throw Putin a war material lifeline, Russia will fall further and further behind Western production abilities. This classic "American way of war," which succeeded in both World War II and ultimately in the Cold War, keeps the odds in favor of the Ukrainians.

UKRAINE

From Page 8

innovating and producing what the Ukrainians will need in the months ahead. But as new orders have increased, another problem has emerged: a severe shortage of skilled munitions workers.

When President Franklin D. Roosevelt gave his memorable "arsenal of democracy speech" in 1940, the US economy was about to move to a full war footing. Clearly, we are not going to do that today. So, the challenge will be to continue to produce both guns and butter in

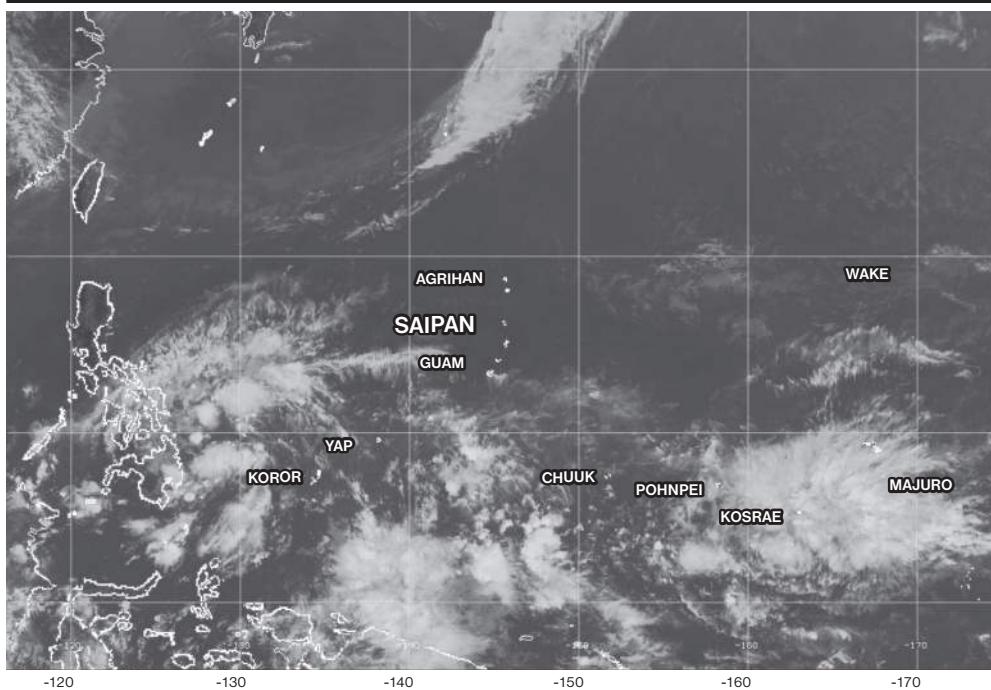
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

| TODAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | | | |
| Isolated showers. Mostly sunny | Isolated showers. Mostly sunny | Partly sunny | Partly sunny | Partly sunny |

86° 76° 88° 76° 88° 76° 86° 76° 86° 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:24 AM, TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite and radar imagery showed only isolated showers over the Marianas this morning. East to northeast winds prevail over the islands.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

| MICRONESIA | | ▲ | ▼ | °F |
|---------------|-------------------------|---|---|-----------|
| Guam and Rota | Partly Cloudy | | | 86° / 78° |
| Palau | Thunderstorms | | | 85° / 77° |
| Yap | Thunderstorms | | | 85° / 79° |
| Chuuk | Scattered Thunderstorms | | | 87° / 80° |
| Pohnpei | Thunderstorms | | | 86° / 76° |
| Kosrae | Thunderstorms | | | 85° / 78° |
| Majuro | Thunderstorms | | | 85° / 80° |

| DAY | SUNRISE | SUNSET |
|----------|---------|---------|
| Today | 5:53 AM | 6:34 PM |
| Thursday | 5:52 AM | 6:35 PM |
| Friday | 5:52 AM | 6:35 PM |
| Saturday | 5:51 AM | 6:35 PM |
| Sunday | 5:51 AM | 6:35 PM |

| DAY | MOONRISE | MOONSET | MOONRISE |
|----------|----------|---------|----------|
| Today | - | 4:01 AM | 4:27 PM |
| Thursday | - | 4:37 AM | 5:17 PM |
| Friday | - | 5:15 AM | 6:11 PM |
| Saturday | - | 5:56 AM | 7:08 PM |
| Sunday | - | 6:43 AM | 8:09 PM |

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AROUND THE GLOBE

| Auckland | Thunderstorms | 68° / 63° |
|----------------|---------------|-----------|
| Beijing | Mostly Cloudy | 84° / 60° |
| Hong Kong | Thunderstorms | 80° / 76° |
| Honolulu | Showers | 81° / 72° |
| London | Cloudy | 58° / 47° |
| Los Angeles | Cloudy | 61° / 50° |
| Manila | Partly Cloudy | 96° / 82° |
| Melbourne | Partly Cloudy | 60° / 49° |
| Miami | Partly Cloudy | 85° / 68° |
| New York | Showers | 55° / 45° |
| Osaka | Partly Cloudy | 73° / 57° |
| Paris | Partly Cloudy | 68° / 51° |
| Busan | Partly Cloudy | 68° / 58° |
| Rome | Thunderstorms | 72° / 52° |
| Salem | Sunny | 73° / 47° |
| San Francisco | Cloudy | 61° / 49° |
| Seoul | Partly Cloudy | 77° / 55° |
| Tokyo | Partly Cloudy | 73° / 58° |
| Washington, DC | Mostly Cloudy | 56° / 47° |

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET

| | | |
|----------|-----------|------|
| 6:00 AM | High Tide | 1.90 |
| 12:33 PM | Low Tide | 0.52 |
| 6:39 PM | High Tide | 1.76 |
| - | - | - |

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 30, 2023

| DEPARTURES | | | | ARRIVALS | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------|----------|---------------------------|
| SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) | | | | GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN | | | |
| UA117 | 9:50AM | 10:35AM | Daily | UA174 | 8:00AM | 8:45AM | Daily |
| SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT) | | | | NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN | | | |
| UA824 | 7:25AM | 9:55AM | 1, 3, 5 | UA825 | 9:25PM | 1:50AM+1 | 2, 4, 7 |
| GUAM-MANILA (MNL) | | | | MANILA (MNL)-GUAM | | | |
| PR 111 | 5:55AM | 7:55AM | Daily | UA184 | 10:25PM | 4:15AM+1 | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| UA193 | 6:55PM | 10:55PM | 2, 5 via Palau | UA189 | 10:25PM | 6:10AM+1 | 2, 5 via Palau |
| UA183 | 7:15PM | 9:10PM | Daily | PR110 | 10:30PM | 4:25AM+1 | Daily |
| | | | | UA192 | 11:50PM | 5:35AM+1 | 2, 5 |
| SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) | | | | MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN | | | |
| OZ626/703 | 4:20AM | 10:35PM | 1, 4, 5, 7 via ICN | UA184/174 | 10:25PM | 8:45AM+1 | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam |
| UA117/183 | 9:50AM | 9:10PM | Daily via Guam | UA192/174 | 10:25PM | 8:45AM+1 | 2, 5 via Palau, Guam |
| UA117/193 | 9:50AM | 10:55PM | 2, 5 via Guam, Palau | UA184/174 | 11:50PM | 8:45AM+1 | 2, 5 via Guam |
| SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN) | | | | INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN | | | |
| TW308 | 3:15AM | 7:00AM | Daily | 7C3406 | 9:30AM | 3:10PM | Daily |
| OZ626 | 4:20AM | 7:55AM | 1, 4, 5, 7 | TW307 | 8:30PM | 2:15AM+1 | Daily |
| 7C3403 | 4:45AM | 8:35AM | Daily | OZ625 | 9:25PM | 2:55AM+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| 7C3405 | 4:10PM | 7:45PM | Daily | 7C3405 | 10:10PM | 3:40AM+1 | Daily |
| LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, TWay Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.) | | | | | | | |
| STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC. | | | | | | | |
| FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022 | | | | SAIPAN TO ROTA | | | |
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY | FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
| 1301 | 8:30 | 9:00 | Daily | 3101 | 9:30 | 10:00 | Daily |
| 1302 | 11:00 | 11:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri | 3102 | 13:00 | 13:30 | Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun |
| 1302 | 12:00 | 12:30 | Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun | 3102 | 14:00 | 14:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri |
| 1303 | 15:30 | 16:00 | Daily | 3103 | 16:30 | 17:00 | Daily |
| ROTA TO GUAM | | | | GUAM TO ROTA | | | |
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY | FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
| 3401 | 12:00 | 12:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri | 4301 | 13:00 | 13:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri |
| SAIPAN TO TINIAN | | | | TINIAN TO SAIPAN | | | |
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY | FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
| 1202 | 8:00 | 8:15 | Daily | 2102 | 8:30 | 8:45 | Daily |
| 1203 | 9:00 | 9:15 | Daily | 2103 | 9:30 | 9:45 | Daily |
| 1204 | 10:00 | 10:15 | Daily | 2104 | 10:30 | 10:45 | Daily |
| 1208 | 14:00 | 14:15 | Daily | 2108 | 14:30 | 14:45 | Daily |
| 1209 | | | | | | | |

Business

De' Cafree Coffee expands to Saipan



De' Cafree Saipan is located inside Town House Shopping Center, which is next to Kentucky Fried Chicken/Taco Bell in Chalan Kanoa.



De' Cafree Saipan manager Soo Woan Jun and his wife show off the tumbler they will be giving away to loyal customers.



De' Cafree Saipan boasts of being the only coffee shop on Saipan to be located beside the beach.

Treasury's Yellen says US could default as soon as June 1

WASHINGTON (AP)—Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen notified Congress on Monday that the U.S. could default on its debt as early as June 1, if legislators do not raise or suspend the nation's borrowing authority before then and avert what could potentially become a global financial crisis.

In a letter to House and Senate leaders, Yellen urged congressional leaders "to protect the full faith and credit of the United States by acting as soon as possible" to address the \$31.4 trillion limit on its legal borrowing authority.

She added that it is impossible to predict with certainty the exact date of when the U.S. will run out of cash.

"We have learned from past debt limit impasses that waiting until the last minute to suspend or increase the debt limit can cause serious harm to business and consumer confidence, raise short-term borrowing costs for taxpayers, and negatively impact the credit rating of the United States," Yellen said in the letter.

Also Monday, the Congressional Budget Office reported that it saw a greater risk of the

U.S. running out of funds in early June. CBO Director Phillip L. Swagel said because of less-than-expected tax receipts this filing season and a faster IRS having processed already received returns, "Treasury's extraordinary measures will be exhausted sooner than we previously projected."

In January, Yellen sent a letter to congressional leaders, stating that her department had begun resorting to "extraordinary measures" to avoid a federal government default.

The Treasury said Monday it plans to increase its borrowing during the April to June quarter

of this year, even as the federal government is close to breaching the debt limit.

The U.S. plans to borrow \$726 billion during the quarter. That's \$449 billion more than projected in January, due to a lower beginning-of-quarter cash balance and projections of lower-than-expected income tax receipts and higher spending.

While Russia's invasion of Ukraine remains a burden on U.S. economic growth, Treasury officials say the debate over the debt ceiling poses the greatest risk to the U.S. financial position.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

De' Cafree Coffee Roasters has expanded to Saipan with the opening of a coffee shop in the newly renovated Town House Shopping Center in Chalan Kanoa

Manager Soo Woan Jun said the 42-seat De' Cafree Saipan opened last Saturday.

He said De' Cafree Coffee Roasters is famous in South Korea because of its specialty coffee beans that are sourced from South American countries like Brazil, Columbia, and Guatemala.

Jun said they decided to open De' Cafree Saipan because the island only has regular coffee and some Koreans living here as well as Korean tourists want special coffee blends that only De' Cafree Coffee Roasters can offer.

Currently, the specialty coffee shop offers hot and cold espresso, Americano, cafe latte, vanilla latte, choco latte, caramel, and machiato.

They also have tea that comes in lemon, citron, grape-

fruit, honey jujube, camomile, and ice tea (peach) flavors.

Under their "best menu" are dutch (cold brew), cold brew latte, strawberry latte (fresh), berryberry ade (fresh), lemon ade (fresh), and grapefruit ade (fresh). They also serve sandwiches, waffles, and Korean donuts.

Jun said De' Cafree Saipan also has a loyalty card promotion where 10 orders will entitle you to one stamp. Collect 10 stamps and you will get a free De' Cafree Saipan tumbler.

Aside from their unique coffee blends, De' Cafree Saipan boasts of being the only coffee shop on Saipan to be located beside the beach.

Pretty soon, De' Cafree Saipan will open an el fresco seating for the new coffee shop once their tents and patio furniture arrive.

For more information about De' Cafree Saipan, call (670) 235-5936 and (670) 483-5936. They can also be reached via Facebook and Instagram.

De' Cafree Saipan is open everyday from Monday to Sunday 8am-8pm and is located inside Town House Shopping Center, which is next to Kentucky Fried Chicken/Taco Bell in Chalan Kanoa.

DeSantis board sues Disney in latest tug-of-war in Florida

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Days after Disney sued Florida's governor in federal court for what it described as retaliation for opposing the state's so-called "Don't Say Gay" bill, Disney World's governing board—made up of Gov. Ron DeSantis appointees—filed a lawsuit Monday against the entertainment giant.

The Central Florida Tourism Oversight District sued Disney in state court in Orlando, and board members voted to defend itself in federal court in Tallahassee where the entertainment company filed its lawsuit last Wednesday.

The Disney lawsuit against the governor, the board and its five members asks a judge to void the governor's takeover

of the theme park resort district previously controlled by Disney for 55 years. The governing board's lawsuit seeks to maintain its oversight of design and construction in the district that governs Disney World's 25,000 acres after the previous Disney-controlled board signed over those powers to the company before the DeSantis-appointed board members held their first meeting earlier this year.

The DeSantis board's lawsuit was filed Monday after

noon in Orange County and claims the agreements with Disney "reek of a backroom deal." The previous board members failed to give proper notice about the agreements, lacked the authority to make them, unlawfully delegated governmental authority to a private entity and the agreements are unenforceable under Florida law, according to the suit.

"We will seek justice in our own backyard," Martin Garcia, chair of the Central Florida Tourism Oversight District, said at Monday morning's special meeting approving the lawsuit.

An email seeking comment was sent Monday morning to Disney officials.

Disney filed its lawsuit last week after the oversight board appointed by DeSantis voted to void a deal that gave the company authority over design and construction decisions in its sprawling properties near Orlando.

Disney's lawsuit was the latest tug-of-war in a more than year-old feud between Disney and DeSantis that has engulfed the governor in criticism as he prepares to launch an expected presidential bid in the coming months.

Nation

Can Biden win again? Here's how past incumbents fared

WASHINGTON (AP)—No president wants to give up the power and prestige that comes with the office after only one term, and Joe Biden is no exception. He's pushing forward even though polls show a majority of Americans don't want to see him run again.

We went back to look at when modern presidents announced their decisions to seek a second term, what their Gallup approval ratings were at the time and how things turned out for them.

One theme: Primary battles are a sign of whether a president will win reelection. That's good news for Biden, who appears to have avoided any significant challengers.

HARRY TRUMAN

He was vice president when President Franklin Delano Roosevelt died in 1945, near the end of World War II. Truman decided to run for a full term of his own, and he announced his candidacy on March 8, 1948. He had an approval rating of 53% in a poll conducted two months earlier. Truman was expected to lose the general election to Thomas Dewey, a Republican, but he pulled off a narrow victory.

Truman announced on March 29, 1952, that he would not seek a second full term after losing in the New Hampshire primary to Sen. Estes Kefauver of Tennessee. His approval rating had sunk to 22% amid economic trouble and the Korean War.

DWIGHT EISENHOWER

Eisenhower, a Republican, had an approval rating of 75% shortly before he announced his reelection campaign on Feb. 29, 1956. He had suffered a heart attack months earlier at age



This photo shows buttons from the 1984 Reagan-Bush campaign. Reagan announced on Jan. 29, 1984.

64, leading to questions over whether he would run.

As the former supreme allied commander during World War II, Eisenhower convinced Americans that he was the right leader on the world stage.

He defeated Democratic candidate Adlai Stevenson.

JOHN F. KENNEDY

Kennedy was assassinated in 1963, before he had a chance to run for a second term.

LYNDON B. JOHNSON

Johnson was vice president at the time of Kennedy's death, and he swiftly ran for his first full term in 1964, winning a landslide victory over Republican Barry Goldwater. How-

ever, the Democrat's popularity slipped badly over the Vietnam War and domestic turmoil.

It became clear that Johnson was at risk of losing his party's nomination in 1968 after Eugene McCarthy's strong showing in the New Hampshire primary. Soon after, Johnson shocked the country by announcing on March 31, 1968, that he would not seek a second term. His approval rating was only 36% that month.

RICHARD NIXON

Nixon had an approval rating of 50% when he announced his reelection campaign on Jan. 7, 1972. The Watergate break-in at the Democratic National Committee headquarters occurred that summer, but the scandal didn't gain enough momentum to drag him down.

Nixon, a Republican, defeated George McGovern, a Democrat, in a landslide. However, he would not finish his second term, resigning in 1974 after revelations about Watergate caught up with him.

GERALD FORD

Ford, a Republican, became president when Nixon stepped down, and he announced that he would run for a full term of his own on July 8, 1975. He had a 52% approval rating the month before.

He faced discontent over inflation and controversy from his decision to pardon Nixon, and he lost the election to Jimmy Carter, a Democrat.

JIMMY CARTER

Carter announced his reelection campaign on Dec. 4, 1979. His approval rating had just hit 51%. However, the American people had grown weary of inflation, an energy crisis and a hostage crisis in Iran. Carter was wounded by a primary challenge from Sen. Ted Kennedy, and he was ultimately defeated by Ronald Reagan, a Republican.

RONALD REAGAN

Reagan announced his reelection bid on Jan. 29, 1984. His approval rating was 52% that month. Despite concerns about his age — he was 73 and the oldest president in history at the time — Reagan handily defeated Walter Mondale, a Democrat.

GEORGE H.W. BUSH

Bush's popularity skyrocketed after the Gulf War, when U.S. forces pushed Iraq out of Kuwait. However, his approval rating had subsided to 65% by the time he announced his reelection campaign on Oct. 11, 1991.

Pat Buchanan challenged Bush in the Republican primary. Although Bush won the nomination, his shot at a second term dimmed amid an economic downturn. He ultimately lost to Bill Clinton, a Democrat.

BILL CLINTON

Clinton's approval rating was 47% when he announced that he would run for reelection on April 14, 1995. Democrats had suffered a wipeout midterm election in 1994, leading some to question whether Clinton would be a one-term president. But he rebounded with the help of a growing economy, and he defeated Bob Dole, a Republican.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The Sept. 11 attacks of 2001 led Bush, a Republican, to invade Afghanistan, followed by another war in Iraq. One month after U.S. forces entered Baghdad, Bush announced he would run for reelection on May 16, 2003. His approval rating was 69% that month. He defeated John Kerry, a Democrat.

BARACK OBAMA

Obama, a Democrat, had a 48% approval rating when he announced his reelection campaign on April 4, 2011. He struggled to convince Americans that the economy was improving after the financial collapse and subsequent recession, but he ultimately defeated Mitt Romney, a Republican.

DONALD TRUMP

Trump, a Republican, announced that he would run for reelection on June 18, 2019. The previous month, his approval rating was 41%. He was impeached for the first time at the end of the year, and then the coronavirus pandemic stalled the economy. Joe Biden, a Democrat, defeated Trump, who tried to prevent the peaceful transfer of power.

JOE BIDEN

Biden announced his reelection campaign on April 25. His approval rating was 40% the previous month. Biden would be 86 at the end of a second term, leading to fears that he's too old to keep such a demanding job.

However, Biden has not drawn any significant primary challengers. The only Democrats running are Marianne Williamson and Robert F. Kennedy Jr. Meanwhile, Trump is leading in Republican primary polls as he seeks the party's nomination, raising the potential for a rematch with Biden.

Few leads, false alarms as search for Texas gunman drags on

CLEVELAND, Texas (AP)—The search for a gunman in Texas who killed five neighbors from Honduras dragged into a third day Monday with false alarms and few apparent leads, while Republican Gov. Greg Abbott faced backlash over drawing attention to the victims' immigration status.

An FBI agent on the scene near Houston acknowledged they have little to go on in the widening manhunt for 38-year-old Francisco Oropeza, who has been deported four times since 2009, but who neighbors say lived on their street for years prior to Friday night's shooting in the rural town of Cleveland.

Twice on Monday, a sheriff's office in a neighboring

county alerted the public about possible sightings, but neither turned up Oropeza.

Abbott offered a \$50,000 reward over the weekend for any tips that might lead to the gunman, and while doing so, the three-term governor described all the victims as "illegal immigrants" — a potentially false statement that his office walked back and apologized for Monday. Critics accused Abbott, who has made hard-line immigration measures a signature issue in Texas, of putting politics into the shooting.

"We've since learned that at least one of the victims may have been in the United States legally," Abbott spokesperson Renae Eze said in a statement. "We regret if

the information was incorrect and detracted from the important goal of finding and arresting the criminal."

Eze said information provided by federal officials after the shooting had indicated that the suspect and victims were in the country illegally. Her statement did not address why Abbott mentioned their status and she did not immediately respond to questions about the criticism.

More than 250 law enforcement officers from multiple agencies, including the U.S. Marshals, are now part of a growing search that has come up empty despite additional manpower, scent-tracking dogs, drones and a total of \$80,000 in reward money

on the table. On Monday, a heavy presence of police converged in Montgomery County after a possible sighting, but the sheriff's office later said none of the persons were found to be Oropeza.

A few hours later, the department reported another possible sighting, tweeting that several schools had "secured their campuses" and again asked residents to avoid the area. But that search, too, turned up nothing.

Both were among the first times since the shooting that authorities had announced a possible sighting.

"I can tell you right now, we have zero leads," James Smith, the FBI special agent in charge, said Sunday.

Asia

Biden says US-PH 'ironclad' partners amid China tension



President Joe Biden shakes hands with Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. as they meet in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, Monday, May 1, 2023. AP

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden reiterated U.S. commitment to the Philippines' security and noted the "deep friendship" of the two nations as he hosted Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. for White House talks Monday as concerns grow about the Chinese navy's harassment of Philippine vessels in the South China Sea.

Marco's visit to Washington comes after the U.S. and the Philippines last week completed their largest war drills ever and as the two countries' air forces on Monday will hold their first joint fighter jet training in the Philippines since 1990. The Philippines this year agreed to give the U.S. access to four more bases on the islands as the U.S. looks to deter China's increasingly aggressive actions toward Taiwan and in the disputed South China Sea.

Meanwhile, China has angered the Philippines by repeatedly harassing its navy and coast guard patrols and chasing away fishermen in waters that are

close to Philippine shores but that Beijing claims as its own.

But as Biden sat down with Marcos, the U.S. president went out of his way to note the progress in the U.S.-Philippine relationship—one that has had ups and downs over the years and was in a difficult place when Marcos took office less than a year ago.

"We are facing new challenges and I couldn't think of a better partner to have than you," Biden told Marcos at the start of their Oval Office meeting. "The United States also remains ironclad in our commitment to the defense of the Philippines, including in the South China Sea, and we will continue to support the Philippines' military modernization."

Marcos said the relationship was essential as Philippines and the Pacific finds itself in "possibly the most complicated geopolitical situation in the world right now."

Monday's Oval Office meeting is the latest high-level di-

plomacy with Pacific leaders by Biden as his administration contends with increased military and economic assertiveness by China and worries about North Korea's nuclear program. Marcos' official visit to Washington is the first by a Philippine president in more than 10 years.

The U.S. president last week hosted South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol for a state visit during which the two leaders introduced new steps aimed at deterring North Korea from launching an attack on its neighbors. Biden is scheduled to travel to Japan and Australia in May.

Following the meeting, the White House announced the transfer of three C-130 aircraft and two coastal patrol vessels to the Philippines. The two countries also said they adopted defense guidelines aimed at deepening cooperation and interoperability between the two nations' militaries across land, sea, air, space, and cyberspace.

Taiwan's president hopes to deepen US security exchanges

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan's president told visiting ex-U.S. national security adviser John Bolton on Monday that her country is willing to deepen cooperation with the U.S. and "other like-minded partners" to safeguard peace, as the self-governed island faces increasing military threats from China.

President Tsai Ing-wen also expressed hopes to Bolton, a potential Republican presidential candidate in 2024, for more military and security exchanges and economic cooperation between the two sides, her office said in a statement.

Taiwan and China split in

1949 following a civil war that ended with the Communist Party in control of the mainland. The island has never been part of the People's Republic of China, but Beijing says it must unite with the mainland, by force if necessary.

The U.S. remains Taiwan's closest military and political ally despite the lack of formal diplomatic ties between them. U.S. law requires Washington to treat all threats to the island as matters of "grave concern," though it remains ambiguous over whether American forces would be dispatched to help defend it.

World

US: 20K Russians killed in Ukraine war since Dec.

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House said Monday it now estimates that just since December Russia has suffered 100,000 casualties, including more than 20,000 killed, as Ukraine has rebuffed a heavy assault by Russian forces in eastern Ukraine.

In what has become a grinding war of attrition, the fiercest battles have been in the eastern Donetsk region, where Russia is struggling to encircle the city of Bakhmut in the face of dogged Ukrainian defense.

White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said the U.S. estimate is based on newly declassified American intelligence. He did not detail how the intelligence community derived the number.

Gen. Mark Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in November that Russia had suffered well over 100,000 killed or wounded in the first eight months of the war. The new figures suggest that Russian losses have dramatically accelerated in recent months.

Troops from Russia's Wagner

mercenary group and other forces are fighting Ukrainian troops house-to-house to try to gain control of what has become known as the "road of life" — the last remaining road west still in Ukrainian hands, which makes it critical for supplies and fresh troops. Both sides have cited gains in recent days.

Kirby said nearly half those

killed since December are Wagner forces, many of them convicts who were released from prison to join Russia's fight. He said the Wagner forces were "thrown into combat and without sufficient combat or combat training, combat leadership, or any sense of organizational command and control."

The White House has repeatedly sought to highlight the cost — both human and weaponry — to Russia of Bakhmut, which it argues has limited strategic importance to the overall trajectory of the war.

Some analysts, however, note that taking control Bakhmut could be helpful to Russian efforts to advance on the larger cities of Kramatorsk and Sloviansk

in the Donetsk region.

Kirby said the Russian casualty count for "this little town of Bakhmut" was in line with some of the fiercest periods of fighting during World War II, including the Battle of the Bulge, the last major German offensive campaign on the Western Front, and the Guadalcanal campaign, the first major Allied offensive against Japan.

"It's three times the number of killed in action that the United States faced on the Guadalcanal campaign in World War II and that was over the course of five months," Kirby said.

Col. Gen. Oleksandr Syrskyi, the head of Ukrainian ground forces, said Russia continued to exert "maximum effort" to take Bakhmut but that it so far had failed.

"In some parts of the city, the enemy was counterattacked by our units and left some positions," he said.

Kirby declined to say how many Ukrainian troops have been killed or wounded in the fighting. Milley said in November that Ukrainian casualties were probably also about 100,000.

Erdogan says Turkish forces killed IS chief in Syria

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—The leader of the Islamic State group was killed in an operation by Turkish intelligence teams in northern Syria, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced. Turkey's state media said the IS leader blew himself up to avoid capture.

Recep Tayyip Erdogan told TRT Turk television in an interview late Sunday that the IS leader known as Abu Hussein al-Qurayshi died on Saturday, following a lengthy pursuit by the Turkish intelligence agency, MIT.

"We will continue our struggle against terrorist organizations," Erdogan said in the interview, without elaborating. The Islamic State group has so far not confirmed the death of its leader.

A member of the Turkish-backed Syrian opposition forces' military police told The Associated Press that the MIT clashed with IS militants on a farm in the village of Miska in Aleppo province late Friday night. As the fighting intensified, al-Qurayshi, who was hiding in a building on the farm, blew himself up, the military police member said. He spoke on

condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to comment to the media.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based opposition war monitor, said Turkish drones flew over the area and Turkish-backed Syrian opposition groups, alerted by Ankara, closed off roads leading to the where the clashes were taking place.

Turkey's state-run Anadolu Agency said as the Turkish agents closed in on him after a four-hour operation, al-Qurayshi detonated his suicide vest. The IS leader was at a house with an underground bunker in the Jindere region and did not respond to calls for him to surrender, the agency said, quoting unnamed security officials.

After Turkish agents broke into the building, al-Qurayshi blew himself up realizing he would be caught, the report said. Anadolu added that al-Qurayshi had been frequently on the move.

Turkey has conducted numerous operations against IS militants and Kurdish rebels in Syria's border areas. Turkey controls large swaths of territory in northern Syria,

following several land incursions to drive Kurdish groups away from the border.

IS has carried out a string of deadly attacks in Turkey, including a shooting at an Istanbul night club on Jan. 1, 2017 which killed 39 people during New Year celebrations.

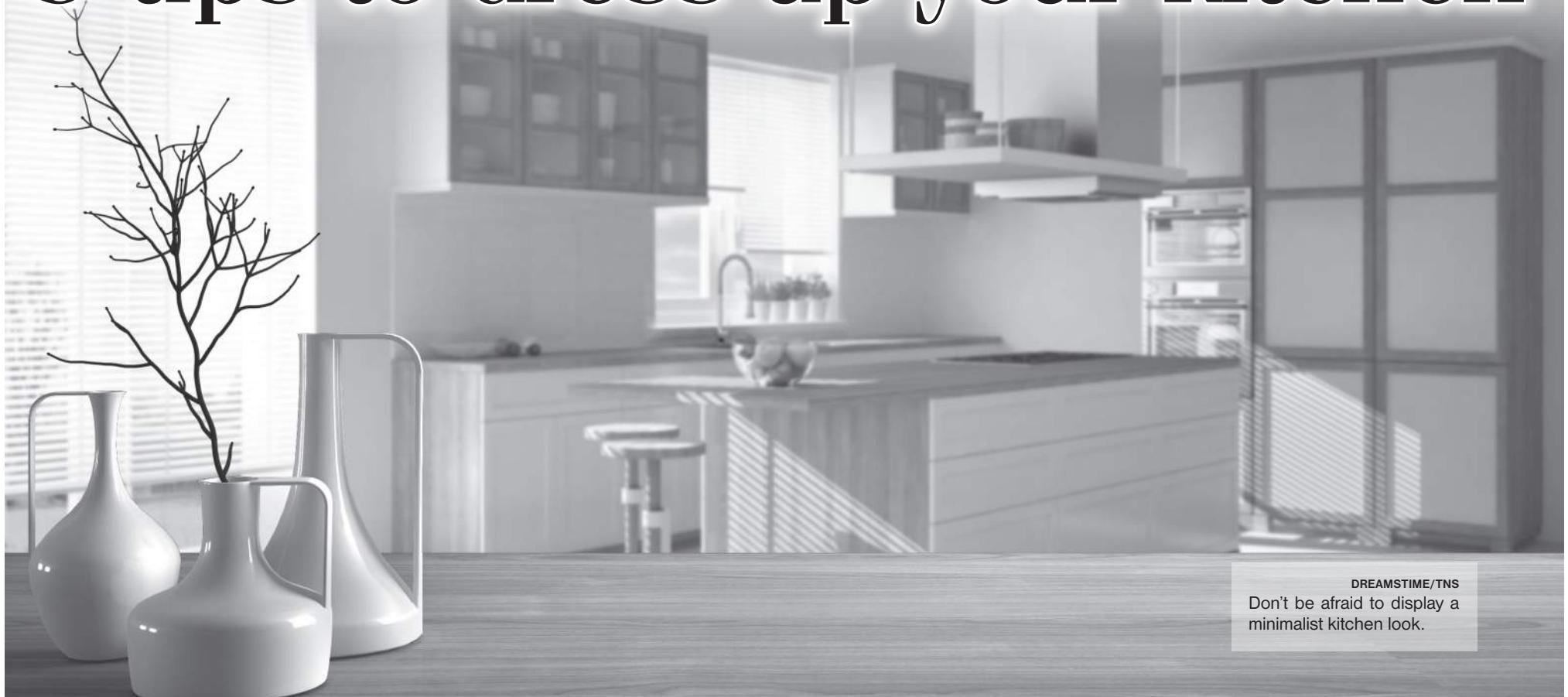
Abu Hussein al-Qurayshi was named IS leader after its previous chief was killed in October. He took over at a time when IS had long lost control of the territory it once held in Iraq and Syria. However, IS has been trying to rise again, with sleeper cells carrying out deadly attacks in both countries.

Islamic State founder Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was hunted down by U.S. forces in a raid in northwest Syria in October 2019. His successor, Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi, was killed in a similar raid in February 2022.

He was followed by Abu al-Hassan al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi, who according to the U.S. military was killed in mid-October in an operation by Syrian rebels in Syria's southern province of Daraa, after which the latest leader took over, Abu Hussein al-Qurayshi.

Good Housekeeping

9 tips to dress up your kitchen



DREAMSTIME/TNS
Don't be afraid to display a minimalist kitchen look.

By CATHY HOBBS
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

When it comes to entertaining, the host often dresses up a dining table to enhance food pairing or to create a decorative tablescape. But why not dress up your kitchen and even casual dining areas year-round?

If you are looking to showcase decorative elements in your home in a creative way, here are some tips.

1 Select some of your favorite things. There is no reason you can't decorate with items you love—just be sure not to overdo it. In many cases, less is more.

2 Look for both color and texture. These elements can often serve as your creative guide.

3 Transition your decor. Experiment with rotating your decor depending on the season or occasion.

4 Use black or white. White is

a wonderful foundation color, while black adds a sense of glam and elegance.

5 Stay away from trendy pieces. It is better to choose pieces that will stand the test of time.

6 Add reflective surfaces such as mirrors. These elements can really glam up your table.

7 Try using real or dried fruits as decor elements. They not only add color, but they are relatively inexpensive.

8 Look for interesting bowls and vessels to display your decor.

9 Don't be afraid to display a minimalist look. Often times single items displayed well can have an impact.

Wallpaper is back in style



DREAMSTIME/TNS
Whether an accent wall or a whole room, wallpaper is a way to add individuality into a space. Individuality and bold colors are both trending for 2023.

By KAITLYN KEEGAN
HARTFORD COURANT

Over the years, wallpaper has been all the rage. Step into a house renovated from the 1950s to early 1990s, there is probably a lot of wallpaper. Current generations remember the sticky, smelly glue that soaked into your sheetrock and ruined anything it touched. As we turned into the mid-to-late '90s, wallpaper began to fall out of favor.

Homeowners began ripping it down, dealing with the price tag-like paper that left glue everywhere. They steamed, they scraped, they wet the walls with wallpaper stripper—anything that would help peel the stubborn paper and glue off.

Nowadays, wallpaper is back and better than ever.

The new wallpaper does not apply the same way as it used to. There are two meth-

ods in which wallpaper can be applied. Either paste the wall or peel and stick. It used to be that the installer had to soak the paper to activate the adhesive.

Peel and stick is the most commonly used; it is like using a sticker. Paste the walls

is used for more heavy, high-quality wallpapers with a non-woven backing. You apply the glue to the wall and then hang the dry paper. You

can then adjust the paper and smooth it out as needed before it dries.

The best part? Peel and stick wallpaper can often be reused. Wallpaper that has a non-woven backing can be peel off dry and leave behind some spots of glue that can be washed off with soapy water. The important thing about modern wallpaper is proper preparation of the walls prior to application. Make sure paint is dry and the walls are clean before you apply it.

Beside the changes in application, wallpaper is now accepted and encouraged in the interior design world.

"Wallpaper is a great way to add drama to a space," Kellie Burke of Kellie Burke Interiors said. "It adds that artistic flare that a piece of art would bring to a space."

Whether an accent wall or a whole room, wallpaper is a way to add individuality into a space. Individuality and bold colors are both trending for 2023.

"We are also loving the reinvented granny florals that were such a trend in the '80s," Burke said. "Layering of the same pattern on drapery, upholstery and walls is magic and warms up a space."

When looking at your space and considering what to do, or while questioning a choice, Burke said to go for it.

"Dare to be bold," she said.

Life & Style

Hollywood writers, slamming 'gig economy,' to go on strike

NEW YORK (AP)—Television and movie writers declared late Monday that they will launch a strike for the first time in 15 years, as Hollywood girded for a walkout with potentially widespread ramifications in a fight over fair pay in the streaming era.

The Writers Guild of America said that its 11,500 unionized screenwriters will head to the picket lines on Tuesday. Negotiations between studios and the writers, which began in March, failed to reach a new contract before the writers' current deal

expired just after midnight, at 12:01 a.m. PDT Tuesday. All script writing is to immediately cease, the guild informed its members.

The board of directors for the WGA, which includes both a West and an East branch, voted unanimously to call for a strike, effective at the stroke of midnight. Writers, they said, are facing an "existential crisis."

"The companies' behavior has created a gig economy inside a union workforce, and their immovable stance in this negotiation has betrayed a com-

Serena Williams, Karlie Kloss reveal pregnancies at Met Gala

NEW YORK (AP)—Move over Instagram (or Snapchat)—the Met Gala was the place to announce pregnancies Monday night, at least if you're Serena Williams or Karlie Kloss.

The tennis legend and supermodel each revealed their pregnancies in interviews on the Met Gala's not-so-red carpet. Williams' announcement had particular poignance given that she stepped away from tennis last year, saying she had to in order to have a second child.

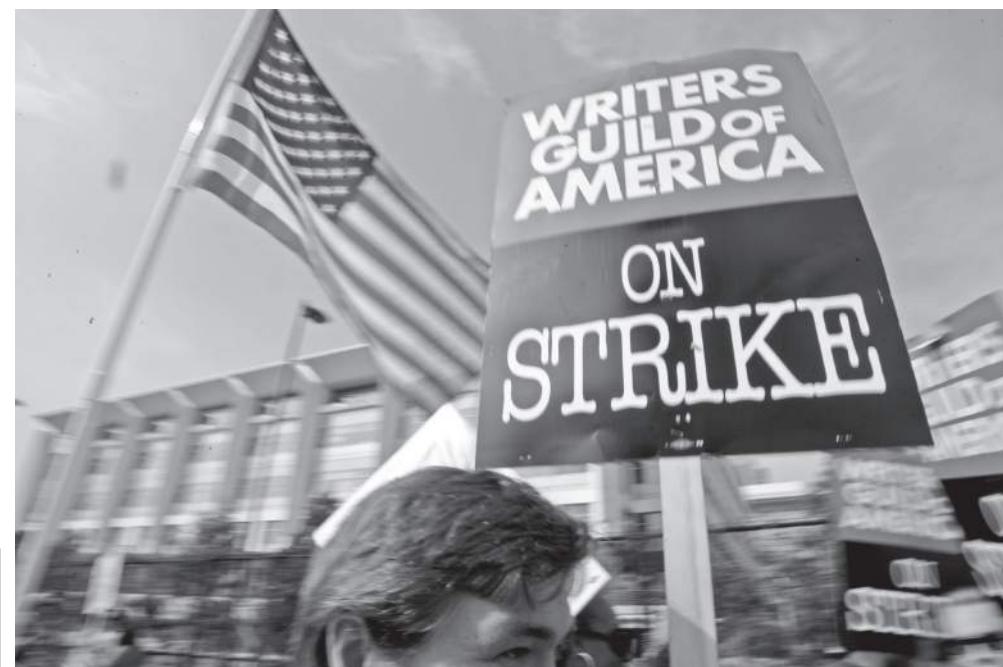
"Believe me," the 23-time Grand Slam champion wrote in an August essay for Vogue magazine, "I never wanted to have to choose between tennis and a family. I don't think it's fair. If I were a guy I wouldn't be writing this because I'd be out there playing and winning while my wife was doing the

physical labor of expanding our family."

Williams was also afforded more agency in announcing her pregnancy this time, sharing the news alongside her husband Alexis Ohanian in an interview with Vogue livestream host La La Anthony. The first time around, Williams publicly posted a picture in profile on Snapchat, captioned "20 weeks"—which she said was an accident.

Williams, 41, also said in her Vogue essay that she wanted to focus more on her business interests. Their daughter, Olympia, is now 5.

Kloss, 30, sporting black hair, shared her pregnancy earlier in the night in an interview with another Vogue livestream host, Emma Chamberlain, prompting squeals of delight and an offer to babysit from the influencer.



The Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, the trade association that bargains on behalf of studios and production companies, signaled late Monday that negotiations fell short of an agreement before the current contract expired. The AMPTP said it presented an offer with "generous increases in compensation for writers as well as improvements in streaming residuals."

In a statement, the AMPTP said that it was prepared to improve its offer "but was unwilling to do so because of the magnitude of other proposals still on the table that the guild continues to insist upon."

The labor dispute could have a cascading effect on TV and film productions depending on how long the strike persists. But a shutdown has been widely forecast for months due to the scope of the discord. The writers last month voted overwhelmingly to authorize a strike, with 98% of membership in support.

Writers Guild of America writers and others strike against the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers in a rally at Fox Plaza in Los Angeles' Century City district on Nov. 9, 2007. AP

mitment to further devaluing the profession of writing," the WGA said in a statement. "From their refusal to guarantee any level of weekly employment in episodic

television, to the creation of a 'day rate' in comedy variety, to their stonewalling on free work for screenwriters and on AI for all writers, they have closed the

Aerosmith announces farewell tour starting in September

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Aerosmith will be touring a city near you for the last time to celebrate the rock band's 50-plus years together.

The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame band announced Monday the dates for their farewell tour called "Peace Out" starting Sept. 2 in Philadelphia. The 40-date run of shows, which includes a stop in the band's hometown of Boston on New Year's Eve, will end Jan. 26 in Montreal.

"I think it's about time,"

guitarist Joe Perry said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Perry said the group, with frontman Steven Tyler, bassist Tom Hamilton, drummer Joey Kramer and guitarist Brad Whitford, learned from the staging and production from their recent Las Vegas residency shows.

Perry believes the time to say goodbye is now, especially with every founding band member over the age of 70. Tyler, 75, is the oldest in the group.

"It's kind of a chance to celebrate the 50 years we've been out here," Perry said. "You never know how much longer everybody's going to be healthy to do this. ... It's been a while since we've actually done a real tour. We did that run in Vegas, which was great. It was fun, but (we're) kind of anxious to get back on the road."

Tyler and Perry said the band is looking forward to digging into their lengthy catalog of the group's rock classics including "Crazy," "Janie's Got a Gun"

and "Livin' on the Edge."

Over the years, Aerosmith, which formed in 1970, has collected four Grammys. The band broke boundaries intersecting rock and hip-hop with their epic collaboration with Run-DMC for "Walk This Way."

Aerosmith performed the Super Bowl halftime show in 2001 and even had their own theme park attraction in 1999 at Disney World in Florida and later in Paris with the launch of the "Rock 'n' Roller Coaster Starring Aerosmith" ride.

Wife incensed when secret is revealed

DEAR ABBY: My son recently confided that his fiancee is pregnant with our first grandchild. He asked me not to share this information with my wife, his mother. He knew she would be upset because he was in the process of breaking up with his fiancee. I told him I would keep his confidence for a short while, but that he should please tell Mom soon.

Two weeks went by before my son finally told his mom about the pregnancy. She was shocked. On the way home, she asked if I had known about it. Well, my life flashed before my eyes. I couldn't lie, so I admitted I knew. She became furious with me and said I should have prepared her for this news and had thrown her under the bus. A big argument followed. Was I wrong to keep my son's confidence?

IN RETROSPECT IN GEORGIA

DEAR IN RETROSPECT: No, you were not wrong. Because you were asked to keep this in confidence, it was not "your" news to share. Your adult son asked you to keep this to yourself, and it would have been wrong to betray it before he was ready to tell his mother himself. Even if he breaks up with his partner, that baby will be a part of all of your lives for the foreseeable future. Move forward and put this spat to rest.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: After 17 years, my hubby and I separated. He met someone else and fell head over heels for her. Now he's back, but life with him is so different. He shows me no affection,

no caring, never a passionate kiss. Our relationship is not the way it used to be.

There is no talking with him, and he calls me all sorts of names—something he never did before. He tells me he loves me, but he doesn't demonstrate it. When he comes to bed he sleeps at the edge of the bed with no cuddling or sex. What is a woman to do? I truly love him.

CRYING IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR CRYING: It appears your husband may not have returned to you willingly. Tell him you can no longer live the way you have been and offer him the "option" of marriage counseling to see if your very sick relationship can be put back on track. If the answer is no, as much as you love him, rather than continue tolerating the emotional abuse you are experiencing, get the heck out of that "marriage."

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband's father is an alcoholic who lives with my husband and me and our two teens. I buy and prepare his food, put gas in his car and buy his alcohol. I even take his dog out. (If I don't, he lets the dog pee in my house and destroy the wood floors.) When he drinks, he gets angry and threatens my husband and me. He let his dog defecate in my driveway one day and then proceeded to come after us. When I finally had enough of his badgering, I picked it up and put it on the hood of his car. Was I wrong?

LIVING WITH THE DEVIL

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

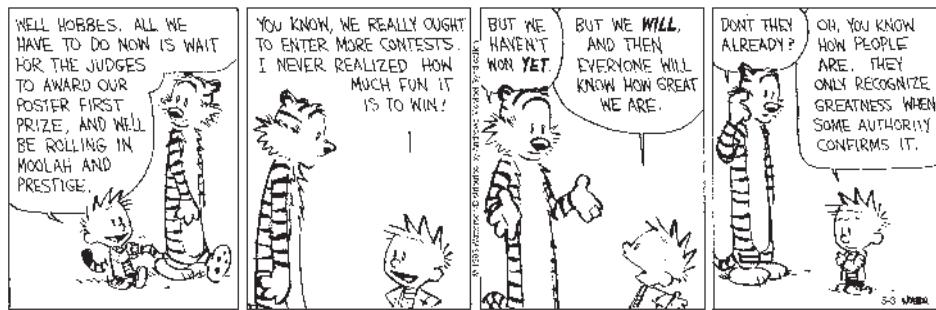
DEAR LIVING: I think so, but what does your husband think about all of this? Is he so used to Dear Old Dad's antics that he accepts them as normal? A way to put an end to your father-in-law's abuse would be to stop buying the gas and his booze. Of course, he won't like that, but if he becomes threatening when he's loaded, it's the only way short of evicting him to protect yourself and your teenagers from his outbursts.

■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Watterson

Garfield®



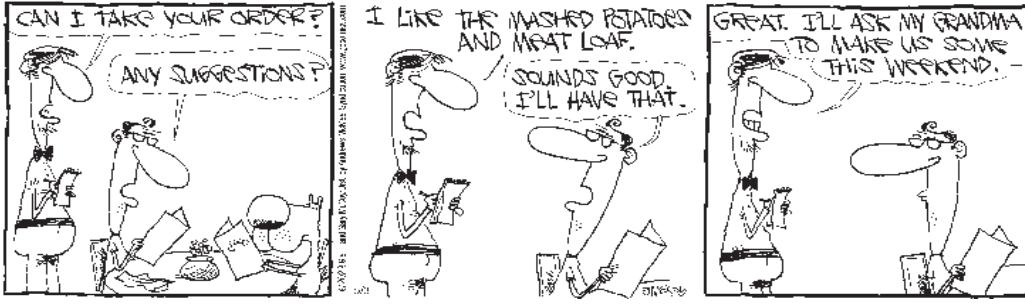
By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

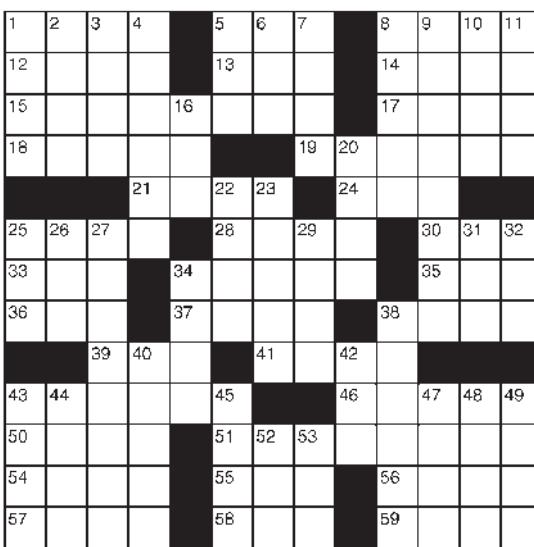
By Eugene Sheffer

| ACROSS | 46 | Autumn | 3 | Flightless | 23 | Director |
|--------|-----------------------|-----------|-------------------|------------|-------------------------|----------|
| 1 | Dumb-struck | pears | 4 | birds | 24 | Louis |
| 5 | Deposit | 50 | Slender | 25 | Fiddle | |
| 8 | Grub | wood-wind | 4 | Sahara, | stick | |
| 12 | A few | 51 | Ski lodge | 26 | Ms. | |
| 13 | I love (Lat.) | cupful | 5 | Lobbying | Gardner | |
| 14 | "Today" co-host | 54 | Garr of "Tootsie" | 27 | Dedicated | |
| Kotb | 55 | Before | 7 | Dorothy's | 29 | |
| 15 | Purring pet | 56 | Bantu | dog | Texter's | |
| 17 | Mideast ruler | 57 | language | 31 | sign-off? | |
| 18 | Ruhr Valley city | 58 | Nile | 32 | "... — quit!" | |
| 19 | Insult | 59 | queen, informally | 33 | Deli choice | |
| 21 | Wander | 60 | Revue | 34 | Lion's pride? | |
| 24 | PC key | 61 | Valhalla | 35 | Nap | |
| 25 | Thai currency | 62 | VIP | 40 | "Old MacDonald" refrain | |
| 28 | Assess | 63 | City | 42 | Jackson 5 hit song | |
| 30 | Parade attendee's cry | 64 | district | 43 | Campus mil. group | |
| 33 | Eggs | 65 | Rock | 44 | Fourth person | |
| 34 | Fountain drinks | 66 | producer | 45 | Ostrich kin | |
| 35 | Mouths (Lat.) | 67 | Brian | 47 | Bunny's tail | |
| 36 | Combat | 68 | 20 | 48 | Pop choice | |
| 37 | Friend | 69 | Bank charges | 49 | Biblical king | |
| 38 | Nonfat milk | 70 | name | 52 | Tolkien ogre | |
| 39 | Lair | 71 | 22 | 53 | Hanol holiday | |
| 41 | Flair | 72 | Asia's — Sea | | | |
| 43 | More risque | 73 | | | | |

Solution time: 23 mins.



Yesterday's answer 5-3



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5956 99¢ per minute, touchtone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Christina Hendricks, 48; Kristin Lehman, 51; Amy Ryan, 55; Frankie Valli, 89.

Happy Birthday: Be direct this year if you want to get things done. Action rather than conversation will make more sense when trying to get others on board. Let what you do be what attracts attention and support. People from your past will be eager to reconnect. Be careful not to forgive and forget too quickly. Make your thoughts and feelings clear to avoid disappointment. Your numbers are 6, 14, 20, 25, 34, 43, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Stop before you say something you regret. Bide your time and pay attention to taking care of your responsibilities instead of commenting on what others contribute. Problems at home will surface if you overreact or let anger get the better of you. **★★★**

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Make home and family your priorities. Implement changes that are cost-efficient and inventive. Refuse to let your emotions override common sense. Pay attention to what others do and say in order to avoid being represented negatively. Concentrate on what you want to achieve. **★★★**

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Stop worrying about what others do and take care of your responsibilities. Taking on too much or expecting too much from others will cause anxiety and a falling out with one of your peers. Avoid controversy, and don't reveal secrets or personal information. **★★★★**

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Do what you can to help, but don't take on debt for someone else's benefit. Be clear what you are willing to contribute before you begin. Don't

let your personal life interfere with your professional responsibilities. **★★**

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Keep your thoughts to yourself, and don't reveal your financial situation. Someone will be eager to take advantage of you if you are too open about connections, skills or money. Be a good listener instead of bragging about your success. Home improvement is favored. **★★★★**

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't take on someone else's debt or share information that is revealing. Focus on learning, traveling and meetings that offer insight into the changes going on in your field and how best to update your skills and knowledge. Advancement depends on you. **★★★**

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Pay attention to your needs. Pick up information that encourages emotional growth. A change you want to make at home will cost more than you expect. Revisit your plans and pursue only what you can afford. Avoid intimate relationships at work. **★★★**

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 22): Overspending on luxury items or loved ones will lead to stress. Consider sharing expenses with someone who shares your values and respects your privacy. Lowering your overhead will give you peace of mind and a chance to put more toward your goals. **★★★**

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Work alongside someone who shares your goals, but do not promise more than you can deliver. Honesty will protect you from sending the wrong message and being left paying a price you can't afford. Stay on track and under budget. Romance is favored. **★★★★**

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



COURTESY 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take the initiative and get organized. Deal with the changes you want to make at home with a budget in mind and the desire to do the work yourself. Have patience with partners, but don't compromise your life or circumstances. **★★**

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Conversations will run amok if you or another person is stubborn or pushy. Sort out in your mind what you want and figure out how to reach your goal without disturbing others. Take care of personal finances, legalities and medical issues yourself. **★★★★**

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep your plans a secret until you have everything in place. A problem that surfaces at home will be the result of a misunderstanding. When in doubt, go directly to the source and get your facts straight. Don't take a health or financial risk. **★★★**

Birthday Baby: You are disciplined, intense and clever. You are persistent and protective.

•: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. **★★**: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. **★★★**: Focus and you'll reach your goals. **★★★★**: Aim high; start new projects. **★★★★★**: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| 6 | 3 | 8 | 9 | | | | | | |
| 5 | | 9 | 2 | | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | | | 3 | | |
| | 3 | | | | | | | 4 | |
| 2 | 4 | 1 | 6 | | | | | | |
| 8 | 4 | 6 | 7 | | | | | | 1 |
| 6 | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | | 5 | 3 | | | | | | |
| 1 | | | 2 | 6 | 5 | | | | |

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's Answer

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 8 |
| 2 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 4 |
| 6 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 2 |
| 8 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 6 |
| 7 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 3 |
| 9 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 1 |
| 5 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 9 |
| 4 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 5 |
| 1 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 7 |

Difficulty: ★★

5/3

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

LOVING THE MALL

Solution: 6 letters

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|---|
| S | E | S | R | E | N | G | I | S | E | D | K | I | O | E |
| E | H | S | D | W | O | R | C | T | I | B | E | D | P | S |
| R | E | O | W | A | L | K | I | N | G | U | L | I | N | E |
| O | A | S | P | O | R | T | I | N | Y | W | I | L | L | |
| T | L | I | Y | S | R | N | Y | K | N | S | A | G | E | |
| S | T | L | R | S | G | B | R | I | Y | G | S | S | N | C |
| N | H | E | E | E | A | E | U | G | R | Ⓐ | L | E | I | T |
| W | C | R | K | B | L | Q | O | A | R | Ⓑ | A | L | S | R |
| O | U | A | A | C | E | L | B | M | O | N | Y | I | O | |
| D | S | P | B | N | O | S | A | R | T | P | D | T | T | N |
| K | T | P | N | Y | T | P | G | A | R | E | S | R | I | |
| R | O | A | H | O | U | R | S | R | V | N | E | N | C | |
| A | M | C | T | Y | R | L | E | W | E | J | D | N | V</ | |

Harden scores 45, hits late 3 as 76ers down Celtics, 119-115



BOSTON (AP)—James Harden was asked for most of this season to be a facilitator for a 76ers team built around big man Joel Embiid.

With the MVP finalist sidelined for the opener of his team's second-round playoff series with the Celtics, Philadelphia called on a vintage version of Harden.

He happily obliged.

Harden matched his playoff career high with 45 points and hit a go-ahead, step-back 3-pointer over Al Horford with 8.7 seconds left as the 76ers rallied without Embiid to beat Boston 119-115 in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference semifinals on Monday night.

"We didn't come into the game expecting to lose. We came in here to win," Harden said. "Whether Jo comes back or not, we're going to be ready to go."

Tyrese Maxey added 26 points and Tobias Harris finished with 18 for the Sixers, who made 17 3-pointers with Embiid watching from the bench. He sprained his right knee in Game 3 of Philadelphia's first-round sweep of the Brooklyn Nets.

After the Sixers endured an early scoring onslaught from the Celtics, 76ers coach Doc Rivers said Harden was patient and knew when to attack and when to pass.

Rivers said having a week to prepare for the likelihood



ball up, but I'm glad I kept running," Maxey said.

Boston led 108-107 when Harden was called for an offensive foul on Horford. On the ensuing possession, Horford found Marcus Smart, who was fouled on a layup. He completed the three-point play to make it 111-107.

Maxey responded with a three-point play of his own.

The game was knotted at 102 when Brogdon got free on a fast break, took a pass from Tatum and dropped in a layup with 5:04 remaining.

After the play, P.J. Tucker appeared to swing wildly in frustration and made contact with Tatum. It led to a brief scrum that was broken up by officials.

Reed took Embiid's place in the starting lineup, like he did with Embiid out for the final game of the Nets series. As expected, Embiid's absence in the middle contributed to a faster pace.

Both teams used it to their advantage.

NUGGETS 97, SUNS 87

DENVER (AP)—Nikola Jokic scored 39 points and pulled down 16 rebounds on the eve of the NBA MVP announcement to rally the Denver Nuggets to a 97-87 win over Phoenix on Monday night, giving them a 2-0 lead over the Suns in the Western Conference semifinals.

"I love an aggressive Nikola Jokic," Nuggets coach Mi-

chael Malone said after Jokic knocked down 17 shots to offset an off-night by Jamal Murray and Michael Porter Jr., who combined to make miss 17 of 22 shots.

"Nikola's an MVP for a reason," Malone said. "He can take over a game. He can beat you in a lot of ways. ... I love a guy who's getting to the basket, imposing his will upon the other team. And that fourth quarter, man, 14 points for that team, 28% from the field, 0-for-9 from 3?"

Devin Booker led Phoenix with 35 points and Kevin Durant added 24 but they combined to miss a whopping 32 shots, including 14 from long range.

Jokic shined a night before he learns if he's edged Joel Embiid and Giannis Antetokounmpo for his third consecutive NBA MVP award, recently renamed for Michael Jordan.

"I can't think about that," Jokic said.

Malone said that's because Jokic isn't motivated by winning more MVPs but by leading the Nuggets to their first NBA title.

"If he wins, it, we will be celebrating and very happy for him because it'd be a huge accomplishment—three years in a row. Only a few guys in NBA history have done that," Malone said. "If he doesn't win it, I'm still gonna give him a hug and tell him he's the MVP in my eyes."

"One of the first things I learned about LeBron the first time we played him in the Finals was just how smart he was, like coming out of timeouts he knew what we were doing," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "So you take that into account."

GETTING DEFENSIVE

Davis put on a defensive masterclass in the Lakers' first-round victory over Memphis, blocking 26 shots in the six-game series and making the Grizzlies profoundly wary of venturing into the paint. Davis probably won't have the same impact on the jump-shooting Warriors, who averaged the NBA's third-fewest points in the paint this season.

Los Angeles has been a determined, resilient defensive team under rookie coach Darvin Ham, and its defensive success is likely to depend on Dennis Schröder, Russell, Vanderbilt and Reaves somehow slowing Curry and Thompson on the perimeter.

"It's completely the opposite (from Memphis)," Reaves said. "They shoot 3s everywhere, honestly. So it's a mindset shift, but we'll lock in and figure it out."

Embiid would be out was key.

"That's the difference between this year's team and last year's team. We have a bunch of street fighters," Rivers said. "If we could get to the fourth quarter, we were going to win the game. That's how we felt."

Harden previously scored 45 points for the Houston Rockets in a Western Conference Finals win over Golden State on May 25, 2015.

Trailing 117-115, the Celtics had one final chance and got the ball to Tatum, but he lost the ball to Paul Reed, who was fouled and hit a pair

of free throws.

The game was tied at 87-all entering the back-and-forth final period.

Tatum gave the Celtics their final lead, 115-114, on a pair of free throws with 26.1 seconds left.

Before that, Boston took the shot clock down before Maxey intercepted a pass by Brogdon and drove in for a layup to put the 76ers in front, 114-113.

"I was about to pick the

Lakers' James, Warriors' Curry to meet again in playoffs

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—It's LeBron vs. Steph on the big stage, Take V.

With a slightly different look in the playoffs these days for two of the game's greatest players.

"Just two of the most competitive players that have ever played this game," James said Monday. "We want to etch our name in the history books as much as we can, and we're playing our own way. I've got nothing but the greatest admiration and respect for Steph."

Curry and Draymond Green reflect back on Golden State's many memorable NBA Finals battles with James and marvel how they're all still playing such high-level basketball so many years later.

Yet this Western Conference semifinal matchup starting Tuesday is new for everybody: Curry, Green, Klay Thompson and these Warriors have never faced LeBron's Los Angeles Lakers in the playoffs — even if they're plenty familiar with James himself.

"It is special to know the first series we played him in Cleveland in the '14-15 to now, we're blessed to be playing at this level," Curry said. "Excited about a new chapter, two teams

trying to keep their season alive and chase a championship. That's what it's all about."

The Warriors and James' Cavaliers faced off in four straight NBA Finals from 2015-18.

Game 1 in this best-of-seven Western Conference semifinal series is on the Warriors' home floor — Golden State is the sixth seed and the Lakers No. 7. It's the first time a No. 6 seed has home court in the second round since the sixth-seeded Houston Rockets against the No. 7 Seattle SuperSonics in 1987.

"It's weird, a six-seven seed series, we get home-court advantage, so we've got to take advantage of that," Curry said.

Curry is 15-7 against James in the playoffs, with Curry averaging 25.4 points to James 33.

They're still dazzling. In February, the 38-year-old James passed Kareem Abdul-Jabbar to become the NBA's all-time leading scorer. And now at 35, reigning NBA Finals MVP Curry is coming off a 50-point masterpiece in a 120-100 Game 7 win at Sacramento on Sunday that com-

UNFAMILIAR FOE

Thompson has been dreaming about a chance to face the team he grew up watching. His dad Mychal played for Los Angeles in his final five NBA seasons from 1986-91.

The Warriors haven't faced the Lakers in the playoffs since the elder Thompson was there in '91, when the "Run TMC" team led by Tim Hardaway, Mitch Richmond and Chris Mullin lost in the Western Conference semifinals to Magic Johnson and James Worthy.

Kevon Looney's chances on the boards could be tougher while dealing with Anthony Davis.

Looney wound up with 106 rebounds in the first-round

series — 37 on the offensive end. He had five straight playoff games with double-digit rebounds.

In the final five games of the series, Looney had 90 rebounds—34 offensive—with 27 assists.

"It all started with Kevon," Green said.

NEW-LOOK LAKERS

Just how different are the Lakers from the team that started the regular season 2-10 after losing at Golden State on opening night? Only three players who scored in that game are likely to play significant minutes in this series.

The Lakers have been rolling ever since the trade deadline, and they've won 14 of their last 18 games heading to San Francisco. Los Angeles added former Warriors guard D'Angelo Russell and defensive stopper Jarred Vanderbilt to their starting lineup alongside two-way contributor Austin Reaves, dramatically improving James' supporting cast. The Warriors already know it: Los Angeles beat Golden State three times in 23 days late in the regular season.

LOONEY ON THE BOARDS

Álvarez's double helps Mets split doubleheader with Braves

NEW YORK (AP)—Francisco Álvarez hit a go-ahead, two-run double in the sixth inning and the New York Mets beat Atlanta 5-3 to split a doubleheader Monday after Braves star Ronald Acuña Jr. exited the nightcap early with a bruised shoulder.

Sean Murphy had a pair of three-run homers in the opener, powering the Braves to a 9-8 victory.

In the first game, Acuña launched a 448-foot home run into the rarely reached third deck at Citi Field and finished a triple shy of the cycle. Leading off the second game, he was drilled in the left shoulder with a 93 mph fastball from Tyler Megill on an 0-2 count and left the game.

The win was just the second in eight games for the Mets, who snapped a six-game losing streak to their NL East rivals.

In the nightcap, Drew Smith (2-1) tossed 1 1/3 hitless innings in relief of Megill, who carried a shutout into the sixth before giving up a three-run double to Eddie Rosario.

David Robertson worked two scoreless innings for his sixth save — the fourth six-out save of his career.

Atlanta starter Charlie Morton (3-3) was charged with four runs and six hits in 5 1/3 innings.

Spencer Strider (4-0) won the first game after allowing four runs in five innings, including Pete Alonso's three-run homer. Mets opener Denyi Reyes (0-1) gave up five runs in one-plus inning and was optioned to Triple-A Syracuse between games.



CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—The Carolina Panthers are desperate to win some Super Bowls, and owner David Tepper believes Bryce Young is the best man to help them reach that goal.

The Panthers selected the Heisman Trophy winning quarterback from Alabama with the No. 1 overall pick in the NFL draft on Thursday night, the first time the team has selected a QB with the top overall pick since Cam Newton in 2011.

Newton got the Panthers close in 2015, but couldn't close the deal as Carolina lost to Denver 24-10 in Super Bowl 50.

At a rain-drenched draft night party on the field at Bank of America Stadium, Tepper was asked in front of thousands of fans what the addition of Young means to the organization. He replied suc-

AP
New York Mets relief pitcher David Robertson, right, celebrates with catcher Francisco Álvarez after Álvarez made the final out during the ninth inning of the second baseball game of a doubleheader against the Atlanta Braves at Citi Field, Monday, May 1, 2023, in New York.



GUARDIANS 3, YANKEES 2

NEW YORK (AP)—Josh Naylor hit a two-run single and Mike Zunino drew a go-ahead, bases-loaded walk in a three-run, ninth-inning rally that lifted Cleveland over reeling New York.

Domingo Germán took a one-hitter and a 2-0 lead into the ninth. But New York lost for the sixth time in eight games and dropped to 15-15.

Steven Kwan singled with one out in the ninth off Germán.

Reliever Clay Holmes bobbed Amed Rosario's dribbler for an error and allowed a single to José Ramírez. Naylor singled to right for Holmes' second blown save in six chances.

Wandy Peralta relieved. After a walk and a strikeout, Zunino fouled off a pair of full-count sinkers, then took

an inside changeup.

Enyel De Los Santos (2-0) got the final two outs of the eighth, throwing one pitch and picking off a runner. Emmanuel Clase got three straight outs for his 10th save in 12 chances.

RED SOX 6, BLUE JAYS 5

BOSTON (AP)—Alex Verdugo belted a leadoff homer in the ninth inning against Jordan Romano (2-2) for his third walk-off hit this season, and Boston ended a nine-game losing streak to Toronto.

Emmanuel Valdez hit his first major league home run, a two-run drive, and Jarren Duran added a solo shot for the Red Sox. Masataka Yoshida had two hits with an RBI and extended his hitting streak to 11 games.

Bo Bichette hit a three-run homer and went 5 for 5 for

the Blue Jays.

Josh Winickowski (2-0) pitched two innings of relief.

PADRES 8, REDS 3

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Fernando Tatis Jr. had three hits, scored once and fired up the crowd in his return to Petco Park, and Ha-Seong Kim hit a tiebreaking three-run homer as San Diego beat Cincinnati for its third straight win.

The crowd was already in a festive mood for Tatis' first home game since Sept. 26, 2021, when Kim sent fans into a frenzy by connecting off Alex Young in the fifth inning for a 6-3 lead.

Juan Soto had a two-run double, Manny Machado added a two-run single and Trent Grisham also had three hits for the Padres. Blake Snell (1-4) pitched around trouble for six innings.

Nick Senzel homered for

the Reds, and Luke Weaver (1-1) allowed four runs in 4 1/3 innings.

DODGERS 13, PHILLIES 4

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mookie Betts had three hits, including a two-run homer, as Los Angeles went deep four times in a victory over Philadelphia.

The Phillies dropped their second straight but received good news before the game when slugger Bryce Harper was cleared to return less than six months after having Tommy John surgery on his right elbow. Harper is expected to be activated off the injured list Tuesday.

David Peralta hit a three-run homer, and Will Smith and Jason Heyward had solo shots as the Dodgers extended their winning streak to four.

Peralta drove in four runs and Betts added three RBIs. Freddie Freeman also had three hits, including a two-run single.

Kyle Schwarber homered for the Phillies, but Taijuan Walker (2-2) allowed a season-high eight runs in 3 1/3 innings.

Victor Gonzalez (1-0) got four outs in relief.

ASTROS 7, GIANTS 3

HOUSTON (AP)—Mauricio Dubón had three hits, highlighted by a tiebreaking double in a five-run seventh inning, and Houston beat San Francisco.

Dubón's double to right field off Sean Hjelle (1-1) made it 3-2. Alex Bregman, José Abreu, Jeremy Peña and Corey Julks also drove in runs in the seventh.

Astros starter Luis García was lifted after just eight pitches with discomfort in his throwing elbow. Ryne Stanek (2-1), the fourth of six Houston pitchers, worked a scoreless seventh.

CUBS 5, NATIONALS 1

WASHINGTON (AP)—Dansby Swanson hit a two-run homer and Drew Smyly delivered seven solid innings as Chicago beat Washington.

Smyly (3-1) allowed a homer by Lane Thomas in the second inning but cruised from there, throwing just 84 pitches.

MacKenzie Gore (3-2) allowed a season-high four runs over four-plus innings.

over the past five seasons and have yet to make the postseason since Tepper purchased the team for a then-NFL record \$2.3 billion in 2018, leaving the league's second-wealthiest owner craving a playoff contender.

Young has shown he can win games and comes to Carolina with a reputation for being a high-IQ quarterback who excels at making fast decisions. Young has mostly succeeded as a pocket passer, but can also make plays on the run.

Reich said it's unclear whether Young will start right away, adding "he has to earn it."

The Panthers signed veteran Andy Dalton as a stop-gap until Young is ready.

But at least for one night, the Panthers were reveling in the idea they may have finally found their franchise quarterback.

"He's a guy that checks all of the boxes," Fitterer said.

Panthers nab Bryce Young No. 1 with plans to win Super Bowls

cinctly, "What I want to say — Super Bowls."

Tepper made sure that was plural.

Later, Tepper doubled down, with the multibillionaire hedge fund owner who deals in probabilities and trades on a daily basis saying in a news conference "there is no sure thing here, but it's a probability sort of (thing). And we thought he has the best probability of winning Super Bowls."

Young knows there will be pressure on him to win, but that doesn't seem to faze him. "Whenever there's a pressure situation, I look at that as an opportunity," Young said when asked about Tepper's comments. "It's fun to be in those situations. That's what we all dream of."

Young was 30-4 as a starter during three seasons with the Crimson Tide, throwing for

8,356 yards with 80 touchdowns and only 12 interceptions. He won the Heisman in 2021 after tossing 47 TD passes and helping Alabama go 13-2 and reach the College Football Playoff national championship game.

"The quarterback we are getting has been a winner forever," coach Frank Reich said. "This guy is a winner. He has been a winner on the field, but he wins off the field as well. He's our kind of guy. Make no mistake about it, we got the best quarterback in college football right here in this stadium."

General manager Scott Fitterer said his staff had convictions about Young ever since a draft meeting in February, shortly after Reich came on board as head coach.

Those feelings were so strong the team traded up eight spots in March to get to No. 1,

parting ways with four draft picks and wide receiver D.J. Moore as part of a blockbuster deal with the Chicago Bears. At the time, the Panthers were concerned the Las Vegas Raiders might try to move up to No. 1.

The 5-foot-10, 204-pound Young is considered small by NFL standards, and is just the third quarterback since the merger shorter than 6 feet to be selected in the first round, joining Kyler Murray and Johnny Manziel.

But the Panthers have repeatedly said they don't have any reservations about his stature, noting he only had two passes batted down at the line of scrimmage last season.

"Those that doubt me, they are entitled to their opinion," Young said. "I think that is the beauty of sports, we all come together and have argument on who you think is

good or not. I choose to focus on what I can control. Put my energy into that and whatever external factors it may be positive or negative, that is stuff I can't control. I choose to focus on being better day in and day out."

The Panthers hope Young brings stability to a position that has been in flux since 2017, the last time the franchise reached the postseason.

Carolina has tried several options under center, including trading for Sam Darnold and Baker Mayfield, signing free agent Teddy Bridgewater and drafting Matt Corral in the third round last year.

They even brought back Newton for a second stint and considered Deshaun Watson before he wound up with the Cleveland Browns.

But nothing has worked. The Panthers are just 29-53

Ol'Aces, Save More, New Chang Ming stay perfect

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

 Martech Ol'Aces, New Chang Ming Market, and Save More are the three remaining undefeated teams in the 2023 Michelob Ultra Cup Men's Islandwide Basketball League.

Ol'Aces won its third straight after downing CK Saints, 69-60, last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

As characteristic of Ol'Aces, they got up to a big lead before losing focus near the end but not before pulling out a great escape.



MARK RABAGO
Team Marianas' Matthew Richardson tries an acrobatic shot against Roil Soil OG's Ponce Rasa in the 2023 Michelob Ultra Cup Men's Islandwide Basketball League last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Airson Atan led four Ol'Aces players in double digits with 15 points, while

the Saints (1-2) were anointed by the game-high 21 points of Leo Galarce.

In the second game, Team Marianas dumped Roil Soil OG, 84-51, to go above the

Man Amigos says goodbye to Wazzup, 30-11

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Man Amigos wallop Wazzup in a blowout 30-11 game in the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League at the DanDan Softball Field last Sunday.

In what seemed like a relatively close game heading into the last inning, the Amigos broke the game wide open and brought in 15 more runs. Since the home team was Wazzup, they had one more chance to try and dig out of the 24-run deficit—but to no avail and only brought in three.

The big 15-run inning came from the bats of the Man Amigos' lineup twice—with a three-run home run by Eric Palacios and another three-RBI, out-of-the-park home run by Jess Guerrero.

The runs kept coming as multiple doubles allowed base run-

ners to come home and replace them in scoring positions. The inning mercifully ended as the final out was made from a pop fly to left field.

Peleliu 11, Hagu La'mun 9

Peleliu outscored Hagu La'mun 11-9, after a two-run home run by Charlie Kenty in the sixth inning ensured their win.

Peleliu was in the lead from the get-go as Alvin Salas scored a three-run home run after a run scored earlier in the first inning for a 4-0 game.

Four more runs came in the next couple of innings while Hagu La'mun could only conjure up four.

Peleliu took a break from scoring in the fourth and sixth, but they were still in the lead as Hagu La'mun brought in three in the fifth off two doubles by John Acosta and Tim Wesley.

Hagu La'mun's efforts were in vain as Peleliu held on to the lead as only two more runs were made in the last inning.

Redmen 15, Tuturamz 14

The Redmen came out of a close 15-14 game against Tuturamz after a last-inning rally.

Tuturamz had a 14-10 lead thanks to three home runs by Mike Techur who collected eight RBIs. Then the Redmen staged a rally in the seventh inning when Mike Tomokane hit a two-run home run followed by three consecutive insurance runs. An inning earlier, Jaime Reyes had a home run of his own.

Tuturamz then lost the lead and the W when they put up goose eggs in the last inning.

Asahi 17, Tokahao 14

Asahi won against Tokahao, 17-14.

Though no home runs were made by Asahi, they were hacking at the ball and getting results as they hit multiple and consecutive singles to bring in runs.

The bulk of their runs were made in the last couple of in-

nings when they brought in 10, while Tokahao brought in six in the first inning when Manny Villagomez started it with a lead-off home run.

Tokahao couldn't produce enough runs in the last couple of innings and fell short by just three runs.

Sufa 21, Momma Charo 9

Sufa defeated Momma Charo, 21-9, in a run-ruled mercy game.

Sufa was dominant with the bats again as they took Momma Charo on a wild ride in the first inning, scoring seven to the latter's five.

A well timed home run with the bases loaded in the third inning resulted in a grand slam by Jun Salalila. Four more runs were to score for an 8 run inning and a 16-5 game.

Only four more runs were scored by Momma Charo including a home run by J.J. Laniyo in the fourth inning. When they couldn't produce more in the fifth inning, the game ended early as Sufa took the W.

I just want to say thank you to the Joeten-Kiyu Library for hosting a 5K. I look forward to running it again next year."

Simon Necessito of Run Saipan who oversaw the race said, "It was an interesting one since the race course was not from the library to the

tank and the fact that it was also a sunset run. Despite that, the turnout was great! We had around 60 runners who registered. It was amazing to work alongside JKPL. The staff and the volunteers did an amazing job and despite the slight rainfall, the

whole event went smoothly

Sponsors of the event are the JKPL, Run Saipan, CNMI Public School System, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation, Northern Marianas Athletics, and M2 Fitness.

Upon arriving in Rochester, his immediate order of business is to quickly acclimate to Minnesota's weather which unknown to many is actually hot in May.

"Thank you for your support. I'm always here. I'm still here. I love you guys and I'm always fighting for the islands," he said.

Fitial also made mention of his fight sponsors IT&E, La Mesa Cusina, Saipan Vegas Resort, and Health City Group.

Med City Fighting Championships co-owner Matthew Vogt said Fitial, while a last-

second replacement, is a worthy opponent for Wiuff.

"Wiuff's original opponent had to pull out because he worked for a jail in Iowa, but the jail won't let him do it. So I looked around to find somebody that would make sense and we found Kelvin. I reached out and we wrapped this one up pretty quick. He had a great fight against Junior Tafa. He was taking some shots and he was giving some great shots. I expect him to get some good shots against Travis and so it will be an interesting matchup," he said.

Fitial also made mention of his fight sponsors IT&E, La Mesa Cusina, Saipan Vegas Resort, and Health City Group.

Med City Fighting Championships co-owner Matthew Vogt said Fitial, while a last-

.500 mark at 2-1.

Chioni Dela Cruz led a balanced attack by the CNMI national men's basketball pool with 18 points, while Dave Camacho and Sid Quan scored 13 markers apiece to pace Roil Soil.

In the last game of the tripleheader, Steve King won his scoring duel against Mark Ferrer and made it sweeter by going home with the W in La Mesa Kusina's 94-70 victory over Unity Trade.

King outscored Ferrer, 32-25, as La Mesa Kusina bounced back from its first loss to improve to 2-1, while Unity Trade went the opposite track at 1-2.

Last Sunday, New Chang Ming Market raised its record to 4-0 after slamming Roil Soil OG (0-4), 100-83. Earlier, OG Rollers (1-3) registered its first win after beating Bridge Capital LLC (0-4), 111-104.

New Chang Ming actually posted its third win after thumping Socho (1-2), 100-76, last Friday. Ali'i Blue Haus earlier escaped by the skin of their teeth against OG Rollers, 84-81, for its second win in three games.

On Thursday, Save More improved to 3-0 following a 91-83 win over Bridge Capital. Team Marianas got the better of La Mesa Kusina,

76-67, in the opener.

SATURDAY

First Game

Martech-Ol'Aces 69 – Ai. Atan 15, Basa 14, Lizama 11, Schmidt 10, Af. Atan 5, Kabiriel 5, Brungard 3, Onopwy 2, Pua 2.

CK Saints 60 – Galarse 21, Augenbaugh 14, Lui. Reyes 8, Lizama 3, Manibusan 3, Lus. Reyes 3, Yucummang 2.

Scoring by quarters: 24-14, 38-28, 50-46, 69-60.

Second Game

Team Marianas 84 – Dela Cruz 18, Richardson 13, Aranda 10, Aldan 8, Villarin 7, J. Sablan 6, Brennan 5, C. Santos 4, K. Santos 3, Raquepo 3, Garcia 3, Hocog 2, G. Sablan 2.

OG Rollers 51 – Quan 13, Camacho 13, Palacios 11, Vilanueva 4, Standish 4, Chariton 2, Tudela 2, Samible 2.

Scoring by quarters: 26-12, 46-19, 61-40, 85-51.

Third Game

La Mesa Kusina 94 – King 32, Kim 18, Sablan 12, Deleon 7, Guerrero 10, Mizutani 9, Bravvo 5, Chua 5, Saludez 3.

Unity Trade 70 – Ferrer 25, Javier 12, Piritcino 12, Velasco 5, Esmores 5, Macalaino 3, Agustin 2, Bongolan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-19, 51-35, 76-55, 94-70.

ings, 9-3.

It was a free for all in the first half for Kanoa as they scored four goals—one by Beatrice Gross and Elikristiana Iglesias and two by Ye Lynn Ha.

Tan Holdings' Angel Calayag replied with their first goal in the 18th minute, but Kanoa's Faith Arriola quickly replied for a 5-1 game.

Xyriel Pascual cut the lead to three when she scored in the 23rd minute, but Beatrice Gross scored two fatal blows and lengthened their lead, 7-2. Tan Holdings could only score one more goal and it was all in vain as Kanoa scored two more.

Shirley's FC 7, Paire FC 2

Shirley's outgoaled Paire 7-2.

Paire's Mariana Tababa and Windsor Gross scored their two goals in the second and third minute.

However, that was all they could muster as Shirley's Alyssa Borlongan scored a hat-trick, and Jackielyn Calage along with Ma Ferrer, Casidee Flores, and another player scored a goal each.

12U BOYS 7V7

Kanoa 2, SUFC 0

The 12U boys 7V7 Kanoa FC team blanked Southern United Football Club, 2-0, with the goals made by Iziah Tenorio.

VELORIA

From Page 20

ria, he said "The race was a lot of fun. The course was a little bit long, but I would rather have a little bit of distance than something shorter than 5K and

KELVIN

From Page 20

himself with cornerman Keir Agda, he has also been sparring against opponents at his home gym at Trench Tech Gym with local fight promoter Justis "Cuki" Alvarez.

"I got back to my training regimen from the very beginning when I was first fighting. I also do my swimming, my long runs, and now that I have a bike now I'm also doing longer, longer bike rides to pick up my endurance. Of

course I still play basketball, my favorite sport," said Fitial, who is the starting center for CK Saints and Martech Ol'Aces in the 2023 Michelob Ultra Cup and Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball leagues, respectively.

Asked how much he would earn fighting in the Med City Fighting Championships event, Fitial said the purse is the least of his concerns.

"I don't really care about the purse and all I care about is putting the islands back on the map [of MMA]," said Fitial, while a last-

second replacement, is a worthy opponent for Wiuff.

"Wiuff's original opponent had to pull out because he worked for a jail in Iowa, but the jail won't let him do it. So I looked around to find somebody that would make sense and we found Kelvin. I reached out and we wrapped this one up pretty quick. He had a great fight against Junior Tafa. He was taking some shots and he was giving some great shots. I expect him to get some good shots against Travis and so it will be an interesting matchup," he said.

Fitial also made mention of his fight sponsors IT&E, La Mesa Cusina, Saipan Vegas Resort, and Health City Group.

Med City Fighting Championships co-owner Matthew Vogt said Fitial, while a last-

14U GIRLS 5V5

Kanoa FC 9, Tan Holdings 3

In the 14U girls 5V5 matchup, Kanoa FC defeated Tan Holdings 9-3. The girls' team was led by captain Ma Ferrer, Casidee Flores, Jackielyn Calage, Alyssa Borlongan, and Jackielyn Calage. The girls' team was led by captain Ma Ferrer, Casidee Flores, Jackielyn Calage, Alyssa Borlongan, and Jackielyn Calage. The girls' team was led by captain Ma Ferrer, Casidee Flores, Jackielyn Calage, Alyssa Borlongan, and Jackielyn Calage.



Harden scores 45, hits late 3 as 76ers down Celtics, 119-115.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Ol'Aces, Save More, New Chang Ming stay perfect.

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20 WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2023

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Veloria, Dame top Friends of JKPL 5K

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Sildrey Veloria and Megan Dame topped their respective divisions in the Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library 2nd Annual 5K fun run/walk last Saturday.

From the course that started from Minachom AtDAO to the National Office Supply and back, Veloria ended the foot race in 23:21.52, while Dame finished in 31:50.16.

The Top 3 males were Veloria, Chong Nam Lee with a time of 28:28.76, and Paul Khang who clocked in at 31:11.31.

The Top 3 females were Dame, Chiharu Sato at 35:05.55, and Emi Okazaki at

48:42.50.

Overall, there were 77 registered runners and the funds will go toward the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's 2023 Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Dame said about the race, "It was a good and long race but I ran it to support the community and have fun!"

As for the avid runner Veloria, See VELORIA on Page 19



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Top 3 males in the Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library 2nd Annual 5K fun run/walk are Sildrey Veloria, center, Chong Nam Lee, second right, and Paul Khang, third left, last Saturday.



The Top 3 females Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library 2nd Annual 5K fun run/walk are Megan Dame, center, Chiharu Sato, and Emi Okazaki.

SUFC, Shirley's bag wins in youth soccer playoffs

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Southern United Football Club and Shirley's Football Club won in the first game of the TakeCare NMIFA Youth Spring League 2023 U17 girls playoffs last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

The SUFC girls put on a dominating performance over MP United FC, 21-0, while Shirley's won in a 5-2 final against Paire FC.

SUFC wasted no time establishing their dominance in the match as they have done in their previous matches, with

a quick succession of goals in the first few minutes. Pia Newakl and Rizza Relucio led the charge as they scored two

goals each not even eight minutes into the game.

SUFC kept up the pressure

See SUFC on Page 19



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this file photo, Shirley's Football Club players are seen up against Paire FC in the U17 girls TakeCare NMIFA Youth Spring League 2023 at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

IN MCFC 2

Kelvin vows to KO Wiuff

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Kei Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fatial has vowed to knock out fellow mixed martial arts veteran Travis "Diesel" Wiuff when the two heavyweights face off in the main event of MCFC 2 set for May 13 at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester, Minnesota.

"I really feel so good about this fight. [It will be a] knockout. That's my prediction. I'm going to knock this guy out," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

The 39-year-old, 250-lb Fatial is coming into the pay-per-view fight with a record of 15 wins, 13 losses, and two draws. The 6'3" brawler fighting out of Four Seasons Martial Arts & Fitness won his last fight when he beat Ben Schneider via TKO in the first round of Brawl International 2.

The 45-year-old, 265-lb Wiuff, meanwhile, boasts of a 78-22 win-loss record with one ending in a no-contest. The 6'2" fighter out of Elite Performance MMA has won his last three fights and will

certainly have the crowd rooting for him as he is from Rochester.

Against all odds, Fatial said he's just happy to be back again inside the eight-sides of the MMA ring.

"I'm really proud and I'm really happy. I've been reaching out to all promoters out there. Most of them didn't really give me a chance but I knew that I'm going to

fight this year. I knew it in my heart, because I've been training and finally, when I got that call, it was MCFC. And they said there's this guy, Travis Wiuff, who has a decade of fights. He's really experienced. But I'm bringing the fight to him," he said.

As for his training leading up to the fight, Fatial said aside from training by

See KELVIN on Page 19



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fatial poses as cornerman Keir Agda takes a selfie during a recent training session.